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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 7, 2016

East edition No 724

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Ukip, Labour and the prospect of evolution

FOR anyone who assumed Ukip was a spent force, a victory in a small scale local by-election this week should make you think again.

It may have achieved its primary objective - namely seeing Britain commit to leaving the European Union - and losing its charismatic frontman Nigel Farage, but it seems its approach to politics has ensured it has become an established party.

Granted, the ward of Ashford Borough Council which saw Labour's previously held seat lost saw a rather paltry turnout of a little over 20 per cent, but that's democracy for you.

Of course, you could comfortably see it as a bigger blow for Labour. Because the ward in question is exactly the sort of place the party should be winning comfortably. If Jeremy Corbyn believes he genuinely connects to the working class areas of the

country then this should be a modest warning that he's simply not got sufficient clout.

All of which makes the possibility of a new centre left party - created from the remains of what was once a sizeable Lib Dem party and those centre-leaning Labour supporters - such an appetising one for so many.

The centre ground is where the majority of people find the most common ground, and thus it makes sense to assume only there is the clout to secure any form of parliamentary authority. We take a look

at the issues gauge local reaction to such a proposition inside this weekend's paper.

Because, as I've said here before, a government is only truly working at its very best when it has a strong and united opposition, capable of engaging the public and challenging the incumbents. And that benefits all of society.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

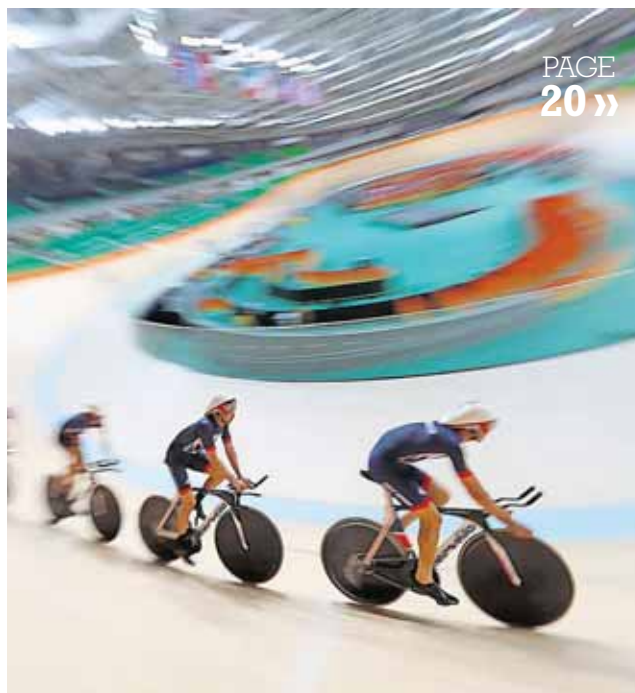
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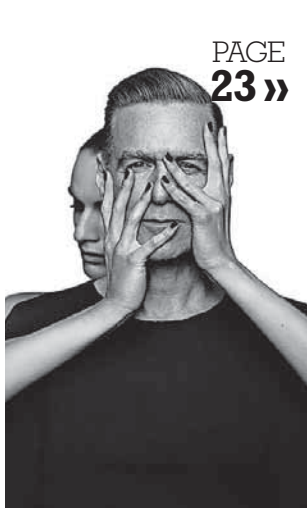
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HOW TO CONTACT US...

Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
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Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
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James eyes Ukip hotseat as leadership fight starts

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A SOUTH east MEP who went to school in Medway, has emerged as the favourite to succeed Nigel Farage as Ukip announced its list of candidates for party leadership this week.

Diane James is now the front-runner after fellow MEP Steven Woolfe's application was considered to be ineligible as a result of a late submission.

Mrs James, who was educated at Rochester Grammar School, previously worked as a councillor in Surrey before losing her seat to the Conservatives.

Should she succeed, she faces steering the party through perhaps its most challenging period. Post referendum it must now seek to build on remarkable recent election success, having achieved its primary goal of leaving the EU and having lost its charismatic frontman, who resigned following Brexit.

Mr Farage, from Westerham, may divide political opinion, but he has spearheaded the most remarkable rise of his party in recent years. Ukip is the main opposition on Kent



CONTENDER: Diane James attended school in Rochester before her career in politics

County Council and controls its first ever council in Thanet.

Mrs James was selected by North West Hampshire Ukip to be its candidate in December 2014. However, a few hours after making a speech at the party's spring conference in Margate she stepped down from the Westminster candidacy "for personal reasons".

Mr Farage has urged his successor to "bypass" Ukip's national executive committee (NEC),

claiming the governing body contains "total amateurs" who have acted as a "barrier to radical change and modernisation".

This week, Mr Farage said: "Ukip now needs to be patient and play the long game, and to live without its velvet-collared, beer-drinking, cigarette-wielding cartoonist's dream. "I will not attempt to influence the choice of Ukip members in this contest but urge them to vote for the person who will represent the

party best on the big media stages and out there around the country, where it really matters."

He said of the NEC: "Many of its current crop are among the lowest grade of people I have ever met."

Mrs James will be joined on the ballot paper by Bill Etheridge, Elizabeth Jones, Jonathan Arnott, Lisa Duffy and Phillip Broughton.

The winner will be declared at the party's conference on September 15.

Secamb plays merger talk down as it agrees closer working deal

KENT's troubled ambulance service has denied claims it is to merge with another trust as it announces an agreement of "formal collaborative working".

South East Coast Ambulance Service (Secamb) has struck a deal with the neighbouring South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), which operates in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire, to ensure more expertise and best practice will be shared.

The work will include an initial focus on areas identified as requiring urgent attention following Secamb's recent CQC inspection, which revealed "a culture of bullying and harassment".

It was one of a series of blows for the trust in recent months, following a scandal of delaying sending help for certain calls to allow extra time for patient assessments and revelations of computer system failures during emergency callouts.

The closer working follows similar

approaches elsewhere in the country and is in line with the Carter Review, published in February this year, in which it is set out that procedures should be standardised and neighbouring NHS trusts should work more closely to save money and improve care.

Chairman Tony Thorne resigned in March, before chief executive Paul Sutton also left the trust two months later. Both Secamb and SCAS say they will explore further opportunities to work together to reduce costs, accelerate improvements and maintain high quality services for patients.

Secamb acting chief executive Geraint Davies said: "As we have seen elsewhere in the ambulance sector, there has been a move to share best practices and work more collaboratively in key areas."

Bosses are clear the collaboration is not the start of a merger between the trusts, however it is understood such a move may not be off the table altogether in future.

Duo pay high price for failing to care for bulldog's skin

A COUPLE have been sentenced after letting their bulldog suffer with a skin condition that replaced her fur with "thickened rhino skin".

Lane Elliott, 47, of Cranham Square, Marden, and Tina Wilson, 44, were sentenced at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court on Wednesday.

Both pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the needs of Coco, a bulldog aged between two and

three-years-old, by not maintaining adequate medication to control her skin condition.

Elliott got 60 days in prison, suspended for 18 months, a 20 day rehabilitation order, six months alcohol treatment and made to pay £437.50 costs. Wilson was disqualified from keeping dogs for five years; given a 12 month community order; and pay £337.50.

Wave of contactless parking terminals to start rolling out

MOTORISTS in Ashford are set to experience the latest technology in car parking as the council rolls out 40 new 'wave and pay' contactless terminals.

They will be installed by the end of the month in the town and neighbouring Tenterden to replace the existing machines which have suffered from wear and tear and technical issues for over a decade.

It means users can simply tap their debit card against the reader to pay for their parking, as well as regular cash or phone payment options.

A council civil enforcement officer will be on hand for a short time to help people with the new machines on the day they are installed. Any profits, says the council, will be reinvested.



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Court date due for Christmas Costa death case

AN elderly motorist has pleaded not guilty to causing death by dangerous driving after his car crashed into a coffee shop on Christmas Eve.

David Lord, 87, is accused of causing the accident which killed Valerie Deakin in Westerham high street.

Mrs Deakin, a married mother-of-two, was sitting with her eldest daughter and a friend next to the

window in the Costa Coffee shop last Christmas Eve when Lord's Audi A4 crashed into the building.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. Four others were seriously injured.

Lord, of Westerham, is to go to trial on a date to be confirmed. He was released following the hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on unconditional bail.

Arise Sir Michael: Senior Tory MP's knighthood in Cameron's farewell gift

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

SEVENOAKS MP Michael Fallon is to be awarded a knighthood in the honours list put forward by former prime minister David Cameron.

The list has come into fierce criticism since some details were leaked last weekend.

Mr Cameron, who resigned following the EU referendum defeat, and was replaced last month by Theresa May at Number 10, used his final honours list to reward his political allies and to give the Conservative Party a majority in the House of Lords.

He created 13 Tory life peers giving the Tories 207 - one more than Labour - and dished out gongs for political allies, Downing Street aides and prominent supporters of the campaign to remain in the European Union.

Mr Fallon, 64, who was first elected to Westminster in 1983 in Darlington, but lost in 1993, has been a senior figure in the party since being



HONOURED: Sir Michael Fallon

selected for the safe Sevenoaks seat in 1997 - a constituency he has represented ever since.

A previous vice chairman of the party, since 2014, he has served as secretary of state for defence and

been a member of the National Security Council.

He was one of the few to retain his cabinet seat in Mrs May's reshuffle when she came to power.

Others receiving awards include Tory treasurer Andrew Fraser, and political aides Gabrielle Bertin and Camilla Cavendish who both worked at Number 10. They are being given peerages.

Knighthoods have been given to cabinet minister Patrick McLoughlin and former ministers Oliver Letwin and Hugo Swire, while former chancellor George Osborne becomes a Companion of Honour.

The list was denounced as "a sorry legacy" by democracy campaigners the Electoral Reform Society (ERS), which called on Theresa May to "sort out this mess once and for all" by allowing voters to choose members of the Upper House of Parliament.

ERS chief executive Katie Ghose said: "His parting gift of 16 lords is a sorry legacy, both in terms of cost to the taxpayer and the quality of our democracy."



PROUD: Mum and calf

Rare giraffe is born at wild animal park

A CRITICALLY endangered giraffe calf has been born at Port Lympne wildlife park - the first time it has welcomed such an addition in eight years.

Keepers and staff at the site, near Hythe, welcomed the female Rothschild to first time parents, Valentino and Lunar.

She has already been spotted at the reserve, stepping out to explore the outdoor yard of her enclosure.

Animal manager, Simon Jeffery said: "We are absolutely over the moon to welcome this lovely calf."

"We've all been waiting anxiously for her arrival and managed to capture the 'first moments' on CCTV."

"Watching the footage back, we can see that the little one was trying to stand up shortly after birth, just as she would in the wild."

Keeper Victoria Snook added: "This is Lunar's first calf and stands at a leggy five feet tall."

"Although it's early days, she is suckling well and already starting to explore, under the watchful eyes of her mum Lunar and auntie, Lehana."

It is estimated approximately 750 individual Rothschild giraffe remain in the wild. Port Lympne is part of a European breeding programme, designed to save the species.

Law review following row over city homes

AN INVESTIGATION is underway to ensure there is no repeat of the situation which saw a London council outmuscle Canterbury for more than 200 homes in the city.

The London Borough of Redbridge made the most comprehensive bid for the accommodation back in May and now the Local Government Association (LGA) is looking to put measures in place to ensure it doesn't happen again after complaints by council leader Simon Cook.

LGA Chairman Lord Porter said: "The LGA will seek to lead this as part of our work on the future services for preventing homelessness and adapting to welfare reform, and will investigate how legislative change may help enable this."

Cllr Cook said: "We're pleased that the LGA agrees this is a matter of concern and we'll be working closely with them over the coming months."

"It's a complex situation, but we are clear that without any action, further problems will occur."

Hospital hopes rise as nursing jobs fill up

STRUGGLING Medway Maritime Hospital has hailed a substantial reduction in its nursing vacancies as further evidence of an upturn in performance.

The emergency department's vacancy rate is now 24 per cent - down from 65 per cent last November and ahead of the department's target, which aims to achieve a vacancy rate of ten per cent by the end of October.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, was placed in special measures in July 2013 due to concerns over mortality rates and standards of care. It has since been tasked with transforming its fortunes. It says the recruitment of well motivated staff can lead to patients recovering faster and returning home more quickly.

Cliff Evans, consultant nurse (emergency care) at the Gillingham hospital, said: "We now have a strategy in place that not only places a huge emphasis on recruiting staff, but also focuses on retaining and educating nursing professionals once we get them through the front door."

Windsurfer rescued as blown off course

A WINDSURFER who went missing only to be discovered two miles from where he was last sighted, is recovering this weekend after being rescued by lifeboat crews.

The surfer had last been seen by RNLI lifeguards at Minnis Bay in blustery conditions on Wednesday night. But when they lost sight of him, coastguards were alerted and an air and sea rescue operation was launched.

Lifeboat teams from Margate and the rescue helicopter from Lydd were deployed to assist in the search. He was finally spotted by the coastal survey vessel the Thames Guardian some two miles down the coast and taken on board showing signs of shock and seasickness.

Peter Barker, spokesman for the Margate Lifeboat Station said: "This chap owes his life to the vigilance of both the RNLI lifeguards and the passing survey vessel which located him some distance from where he got into difficulties. If you see anything suspicious at sea dial 999 and ask for the coastguard."

Royal Mail site to form centre of county town masterplan

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MUCH-needed homes are part of a 'masterplan' for Maidstone after two councils joined forced in a deal to buy the 3.5 acre former Royal Mail centre and delivery site in the county town.

The site in Sandling Road has been identified as a key plot of land in unlocking the potential transformation of the area.

Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council, who expect to complete the purchase next month, aim to use the site as a mixed-use development, including retail space, homes, offices, increased parking and an improved interchange between buses, trains and taxis.

The two authorities will jointly seek to produce a masterplan for the site.

It is hoped as this develops they will be able to promote collaboration with other land-owners in the vicinity which would form the basis for a broader scheme encompassing Maidstone East railway station and the former Old Vic pub.

The plan is expected to take three to five years to complete and consultants will be appointed to ensure that the scheme is as attractive as possible to private sector partners and wins local backing.



SITE: Former Royal Mail plot in county town

In the meantime, part of the former mail centre and delivery office site is being sub-let to a charity for use as a depot.

Further temporary uses for the site are being sought and additional parking spaces will be made available.

Fran Wilson, leader of Maidstone Borough Council, said: "This is a strategically important regeneration project and by working in partnership to purchase the site we can secure the best outcome for the county town. The area has been an eyesore for a number of

years. Working together we can create something that residents will be proud of and which will bring the jobs and homes that the town needs."

Gary Cooke, KCC's cabinet member for corporate and democratic services and a local Maidstone member said: "Our property team has been working on this scheme with colleagues from Maidstone ever since Royal Mail took the decision to market the site and I am delighted to see all those efforts come to fruition."

Ukip pick up Labour seat at by-election

LABOUR has lost a local council by-election in Ashford to Ukip - and only just narrowly avoided slumping into third place.

The Beaver Green ward, vacated by the resignation of Labour councillor Jill Britcher in June, was won comfortably by Ukip's Ryan Macpherson, 29. He polled 373 votes, Labour 243, Conservatives 240 and the Green candidate 31. Turnout was just 21 per cent.

Dartford Crossing to close overnight

MOTORISTS heading into Essex are being warned of further maintenance at the Dartford Crossing next week.

From Monday to Thursday, and again on Saturday and Sunday, the northbound east tunnel will close to traffic from 9pm to 5.30am. A fully signed diversion will be in place for oversized vehicles.

Garden site takeover

POPULAR Ashford garden centre Bybrook Barn has been taken over by independent Surrey firm Longacres - ending rumours it could be set to close.

The firm expects to hold the reins and plan a soft launch under new management by early October. Bybrook Barn is a long running centre based on the Canterbury Road.



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Freight boss warns of 'grave' fears at migrant violence rise

A HAULAGE company boss has called for greater protection for truckers as he warned of a "second summer of crisis" in Calais.

Dan Cook, operations director of Dartford-based Europa Road, said his drivers had been the victims of four attacks in the past two weeks.

He said one driver was attacked by three people with knives at an AS24 station in Calais, leaving him with a cut to his arm.

The assailants ran off when another truck arrived, he said.

On another three occasions, trucks had been stopped on main approach roads to the port by people throwing rocks and trees into the carriageway.

Mr Cook has written to the Road Haulage Association (RHA) calling for action to protect his workers.



He said: "We have seen a significant and dangerous spike in migrant activity.

"In the last two weeks alone, we have had four incidents that personally I find gravely concerning."

The Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association (FTA) has called for the 'jungle' migrant camp at Calais to be moved away from the port town amid fears Brexit may see a surge in migrants.

Could ferries soon get armed security patrols?

THE prospect of armed sea marshals on cross-Channel ferries took a step closer as armed personnel took part in an on-board security exercise this week on a ferry sailing from Portsmouth.

There have been increasing concerns that terrorists could target the ships with some reports suggesting vessels operating on the Dover to Calais route could be at risk.

This week, Brittany Ferries carried out an exercise on the Mont St Michel ferry, travelling from Portsmouth to Caen, as part of moves to make the highly trained military personnel part of the security network.

Announcements in English and French alerted up to 800 passengers that they were in the middle of a security exercise.

Half-way through the crossing, at about 5.30pm on Monday, around three hours before the ship's scheduled arrival in France, three armed French sea marshals wearing full military kit landed on the ship by helicopter.

The marshals, who are effectively part of the French military, patrolled the ship and carried out other security measures.

The exercise was part of a potential ramping up of security in light of recent terror attacks in France and elsewhere in Europe, amid fears there may be more to come.

French authorities are keen to be seen to be proactive, particularly on French-flagged vessels, to tackle potential security threats.

Church gets lottery cash

ST MARY Magdalene church in Cobham has been awarded up to £24,2000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help its restoration and refurbishment project.

The Grade 1 listed mediaeval parish church needs significant repairs, which this award will help to fund.

Farewell at cathedral

RECEIVER general of Canterbury Cathedral, John Meardon, has retired after 18 years as its most senior lay member.

Brig Meardon joined the cathedral after serving for 34 years with the Royal Marines, including both as a commando and a helicopter pilot.

Space adventure looms

A GRADUATE from the University of Kent's School of Physical Sciences (SPS) has accepted a position with the European Space Agency's (ESA) young graduate trainee programme.

Sam Leakey from Scotland, is one of only 80 successful applicants from across Europe.

Jail for drug smuggler

LORRY driver Andi Vezuli, 43, who holds a joint Albanian-Italian nationality, has been jailed at Canterbury Crown Court after pleading guilty to smuggling 20 kilos of cocaine through Dover Eastern Docks.

He pleaded guilty at Canterbury Crown Court and 10 years imprisonment.



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3. Horses on motorway

Chaos near the Dartford Crossing

The Essential Guide:



...to Dreamland

Everything you need to know about Margate's heritage amusement park



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: An artist from Meopham has painted bodies across the world. See page 27 for the full story.

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Top Three Blogs



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Why HGVs drive us round the bend

2. Straight outta uni

A young man's first step in the adult world

3. Time to step back?

Tales of gambling ups and downs

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Will we see a breakaway opposition party?

- 1 Yes, I'd support it - 44%
- 2 Yes but I hate the idea - 25%
- 3 No but we should - 6%
- 4 No, I support Corbyn - 25%

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RELIEF: Dreamland will continue to trade throughout the summer following a crunch meeting with administrators and creditors this week

Dreamland to fight another day as creditors strike an agreement

The park operator owes millions but, as **Tom Pyman** reports, it will continue to trade this summer

DREAMLAND will continue to trade this summer despite rising debts incurred by the park's operator, administrators have confirmed.

A meeting was called after Sands Heritage Ltd entered into a voluntary arrangement last December to pay back its creditors, many of whom are owed thousands of pounds.

Benjamin Wiles, managing director of Duff & Phelps, which is operating the park while its in administration, said: "A meeting of creditors was held Thursday, during which we confirmed that Dreamland will continue to trade.

"By doing so we are able to implement a plan to turnaround the business through investment in the site, enhancing the customer experience and developing an exciting programme of future events.

"It is our aim to maximise the return for creditors, and in our experience, these enhancements and investment will improve the prospects for a successful outcome for the business."

Repayment is a complex process, with something of a hierarchy of creditors needing to be acknowledged, with secured creditors prioritised.

When a business becomes insolvent, sale of the specific asset, usually property, over which security is held provides repayment for such a creditor.

This is usually paid in full, and then administrators make their way further down the hierarchy.

Mr Wiles told us last month that the administrators were "certain there is a bright future" for the popular Margate attraction.

In a report issued to creditors ahead of Thursday's crunch meeting, Duff & Phelps bosses admitted a sale of the business and assets of the company is likely to be the eventual outcome of the administration as total debts of some £14 million were revealed.

They did stress, however, that an immediate sale is not being pursued. Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale agreed with Mr Wiles that there were only positive things on the horizon for the theme park.

"I'm very pleased because Dreamland is an extremely important local and national asset and it still has a great future," he told KoS. "I'm glad that the creditors have maintained their trust in it and this is a real demonstration of goodwill that Dreamland deserves."

However, the park suffered a blow last week when it was announced that, for the second consecutive summer, thrillseekers will have to make do without the Scenic Railway - for the time being at least.

The iconic rollercoaster is currently undergoing repairs, and while bosses insist it will be operational again in the coming days, it is a devastating setback in the middle of what is likely to be the park's peak period.

CEO Eddie Kemsley said: "The Scenic Railway's lift rope requires replacement.

"Due to the ride's vintage nature the bespoke new lift rope needs to be replaced by a specialist engineer and unlike more modern rides with off the shelf parts, for a ride such as Dreamland's Grade II Scenic Railway, this procurement process takes a little longer.

"Our engineering team are working tirelessly to secure a date for the rope's replacement and get the ride up and running as soon as possible."

The park re-opened last summer to great fanfare, but opening of the Scenic Railway was delayed until October, much to the frustration of visitors and, many suspect, the detriment of revenue for Sands Heritage Ltd.

A number of key, high-profile events over the next few months could also help determine the venue's future.

As well as the annual summer rush with children and families on holiday, there are also various festivals in September and October, including of course, Halloween activity.

Indeed, it was announced this week that pop icon Jarvis Cocker is set to join the likes of Wolf Alice, Super Furry Animals, Bat For Lashes and Wild Beast at the park's By The Sea festival later this year.

However, Sir Roger said that while he was frustrated by the malfunctioning Scenic Railway, he didn't feel the summer and early autumn attractions were fundamental to Dreamland's success, and that it had the ability to attract crowds 12 months a year.

"I'm concerned about issues around the Scenic Railway having had a multi-million pound refit but still breaks down after just nine months," he said.

"But the guys running it are trying to do things to establish it as all year-round amusement park.

"The heritage is a large part of it, of course, but it is only part of it and I don't believe it is over-reliant on these summer months.

"There's the Octopus' Garden [also



BLOW: The Scenic Railway needs to undergo repairs

recently shut for repairs following a leak] which is a great attraction for children, my grandchildren absolutely love it, so we want to get that open as swiftly as possible.

"And there were thousands of visitors at the winter fair last year, okay, they were lucky with the weather but Eddie Kemsley and her team have shown you can make it work throughout the year."

The park has made a number of moves in recent weeks to try and drive revenue, including the dropping of the entry fee into the park.

Instead, Dreamland has now become a pay-to-ride venue, with wristbands available for £12 for all those measuring over 1.25m and £8 for those under wanting to go on its rides.

There is also be weekend pass for those staying for both Saturdays and Sunday.

There appears to have been an immediate effect in terms of footfall, as

one Saturday in July saw some 10,000 visitors make their way to Dreamland as the sun shone on Thanet - a record crowd.

Administrators say revenue raised during this peak period can be used to help pay off some of Sands Heritage's growing debt.

The site is owned by Thanet District Council, and a spokesperson said following the decision: "The fact of Sands Heritage Ltd going into administration was a failure of that company, not of the council, which has acted in good faith and tried its utmost to maintain a successful Dreamland.

"Despite these efforts, the company did enter administration, a decision over which the council had no control.

"We are now working positively with the administrator to help keep the park open and play our part in trying to find a long-term solution to what is a fantastic attraction which we should all be proud of."

We need more money to handle mental health cases, says PCC

Matthew Scott has kept a low profile since his election in May, but as he appeared before his first governance meeting this week, he made it clear that Whitehall needs to help cope with rising concern

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT's police and crime commissioner says he will make a bid to government for more funding to help officers in their handling of mental health cases.

It comes after police chiefs this week revealed an alarming lack of beds for people suffering from mental illness that are picked up by officers across the county.

In some cases, patients have even been forced to stay in police cells due to a lack of available medical facilities.

Attending his first governance board meeting at Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone - an opportunity once every quarter to grill the chief constable - Matthew Scott heard of a worrying shortage, meaning officers now spend approximately a third of their time dealing with mental health issues.

The lack of capacity in the county was so severe, there were even instances of having to transport people as far as Yorkshire in order to be adequately placed and supported, the meeting was told.

The issue is exacerbated by funding shortages for both the police and the NHS which is putting both organisations under considerable pressure.

Nationally, it is estimated that around six per cent of calls and 20 per cent of deployment time for police officers is as a result of, or aggravated by poor mental health.

Just this week, the stabbing incident in London's Russell Square - in which an American tourist was killed and several others injured - is thought to be mental health related rather than, as first feared, terrorism related.

But Kent Police's chief constable Alan Pughsley, who is in charge of all operational issues with regards the county's policing, warned the figures in the county were in fact even higher and continuing to rise.

"The 24/7 nature of policing and ease of access via 999 or 101 [calls] invariably means that Kent Police often becomes the first point of contact for people in mental health crisis rather than the last," he said.

"It may also be a case of people having more faith in the force and wanting to call us than they perhaps did before.

"The shortage of beds means we have to look after them in custody or in police cars, sometimes for several hours, because there's just not the capacity elsewhere, and that cannot be right.

"In the past we were taking people as far as Yorkshire to try and find beds so we need to make sure there is sufficient accommodation locally."



FIGHT: PCC Matthew Scott, main image, and, inset, chief constable Alan Pughsley

Only in exceptional circumstances should a police custody suite be used to manage seriously disturbed and aggressive behaviour. The aim is instead to transfer the people in question to the force's partners who can provide the help and support they need.

Mr Pughsley revealed details of an arrangement Kent Police has negotiated with South East Coast Ambulance Service (Secamb) to transport patients detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

Ambulances are requested to transport patients around 50 per cent of the time, with the rest of the transportations tending to be made

by police officers.

The response time to transport a patient to a place of safety is agreed by Secamb to be 60 minutes where there are no other medical concerns identified or the patient is not being actively restrained and at risk.

However, concerns were raised over the fact that Secamb is the only ambulance trust nationally to aim for a 60 minute response, with all other trusts aiming to respond to non-medical emergency calls in 30 minutes.

"It's a worry because that means an officer who is dealing with somebody who is at risk of harming themselves or others, they would have to wait another half-an-hour which is a

long time," Mr Pughsley said.

"As a result they have to take custody, but if the response time was only 30 minutes, the officers might be able to wait.

"If the status quo remains, my staff are going to struggle and if a third [of police time] becomes a half, it's going to get very, very difficult."

The Conservative Mr Scott, who beat off competition from the likes of Ukip's Henry Bolton to secure the £85,000-a-year post in May's election, said tackling issues relating to mental health were a cornerstone of his six-point plan.

"I think it's absolutely vital that we address it because it's on the increase

and that's important for two reasons," he told KoS.

"One, because it's police time that could be spent on other matters such as being out on the beat or dealing with crimes and investigations but also for the individual as well to make sure they're getting the support they need when they're vulnerable."

A former office manager to Bexleyheath and Crayford Tory MP David Evennett, Mr Scott, 32, lives in Swanley with his wife Nina and was the youngest of the six candidates to stand for the role of commissioner earlier this year.

"Getting more beds is just one part of the solution," he added.

"We do have more awareness of mental health now and more people coming forward as we've addressed some of the stigma.

"But we need to make sure that everyone with an interest in mental health who is part of the system does their bit, and I've been very concerned that we've had cases of police officers spending their entire shift trying to find a mental health bed for someone they've picked up early on.

"We can't continue on that basis because that's not good for police resources, nor the individual being kept in a police car for that amount of time."

Mr Scott was positive about the number of potential solutions to what appears to be a growing problem but ultimately, as ever, with the force facing another £33m slash to its budget, a lot of it simply comes down to money.

"There are several things we can do," he said.

"We can make sure the person is getting the right support - in the force control room we have the Mind [a Kent-based mental health charity] counsellors who are providing guidance to people who are phoning 101.

"There is an issue about the number of safe places that we have for people so the Crisis Care Concordat [a national agreement between services and agencies, such as Kent Police and clinical commissioning groups, involved in the care and support of vulnerable people], are going to put a bid to the Department of Health for funding to create more safe places.

"It's also about training and awareness for individual officers so they have got the skills and support they need."

In April of next year, a Police and Crime Bill is likely to come into effect, in which the home secretary will decide the only circumstances when police custody will be used as a place of safety.

Mr Scott replaced Ann Barnes, the independent candidate who was previously head of the Kent Police Authority - which was disbanded to create the PCC role - with a comfortable victory in May's election.



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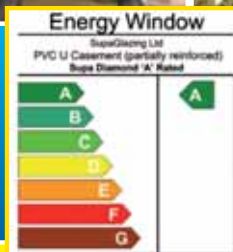
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County doing more than most to help Syrian refugees

Yet only a handful of our district councils have taken in families fleeing from war-torn areas to help meet the 20,000 target by 2020, according to a select committee report issued this week. It raises concern as to why others are not assisting

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

LOCAL authorities in Kent have hit back after a government report said more councils need to "pull their weight" and accept more Syrian refugees to ease the migration crisis.

The report, published by the home affairs select committee after a year-long enquiry, found EU action to address the crisis it should have foreseen was "too little, too late".

It reveals for the first time the number of Syrian refugees resettled in each local authority area; and many across the country are yet to take any.

The report said: "These figures show many local authorities (LAs) are not pulling their weight in resettling Syrian refugees, and there is scant evidence the government is on track to meet its commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrians by 2020.

"The committee says ministers should show leadership by encouraging their own constituency LAs to take refugees."

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has described the scale of the crisis as "colossal", with over 1.2 million first time applications for asylum in EU member states in 2015, double the 562,680 in 2014, with over half of these from ongoing war-torn countries Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

However, the overwhelming response to the report in Kent is that the county has handled responsibility well.

While Kent County Council is co-ordinating and offering a supporting role, it is the districts and boroughs in the county that are responsible for deciding how many refugees they are able to take and where they are going to put them.

Ashford appears to be leading the way having welcomed seven families, totalling 33 individuals, including 10 children who are already in school.

It also has one refugee in employment after he arrived with a good level of English.

The other families, none of whom spoke any English at all on arrival, are, say council chiefs, "incredibly keen" for any type of employment and have been working hard to learn English in order to achieve this, the council said.

It also confirmed it is not accommodating any refugee families in social housing and is on track to continue to welcome up to ten families per year for each of the five years of the government scheme.

Conservative council leader Gerry Clarkson said: "We continue to be proud to welcome these vulnerable Syrian refugee families to our borough from camps around Syria via the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] programme.

"We are providing a humanitarian response to the situation and as an organisation we passionately believe it is the right thing to do.

"The caring response of our residents and our own council staff has been extremely positive and I know the families have been grateful



BUSY: KCC leader Paul Carter

SECURITY OF ENTRANCE POINTS STILL A KEY CONCERN

As well as encouraging more authorities to take their fair share, the report explored the magnitude of the migration crisis in Kent and beyond over the last 12 months.

In July 2015, Calais was blockaded by a series of strikes by French ferry workers which led to long delays and increased opportunities for migrants and refugees to attempt to board UK bound vehicles.

For example, on July 2-3, it was reported that up to 150 migrants had stormed the tunnel, causing disruption to services leading to delays and cancellations, some of whom died in doing so.

Since then, security has been beefed up, with Eurotunnel introducing the use of drones as a way of tightening its controls even further.

Perhaps as a result of increased difficulty in crossing from Calais to Folkestone or Dover, the report warned that smaller ports are now being used by criminal gangs to move people between the continent and the UK.

Two men were sentenced last week for trying to smuggle in migrants through Dymchurch.

Border Force has been given a key role in implementing strengthened

coastal security measures, and was awarded new powers earlier this year, but the committee said it was clear that it is experiencing problems in gaining access to a sufficient number of patrol boats and has encouraged use of Navy resources to help combat the crisis.

Only four of the new vessels are currently deployed and the remaining four will not be available for more than a year.

"Maritime patrols are an essential element of border security for an island nation," MPs said.

"Border Force needs to be given all the necessary equipment, including vessels, to enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively.

"The number of Border Force vessels in operation appears to be worryingly low.

"Royal Navy vessels should be made available to Border Force to make up for shortfalls, where necessary."

The committee also endorsed comments made by Theresa May and French president Francois Hollande at a meeting last month, where the heads of state agreed a border agreement between the two

countries should remain in force.

"Since the EU Referendum, there have been reports of some politicians in France calling for the trilateral Le Touquet agreement on juxtaposed borders to end, and for the UK border to be moved back from Calais and other Channel ports to the Kent coast.

"Such comments are unproductive and are likely to encourage more migrants to travel to Calais.

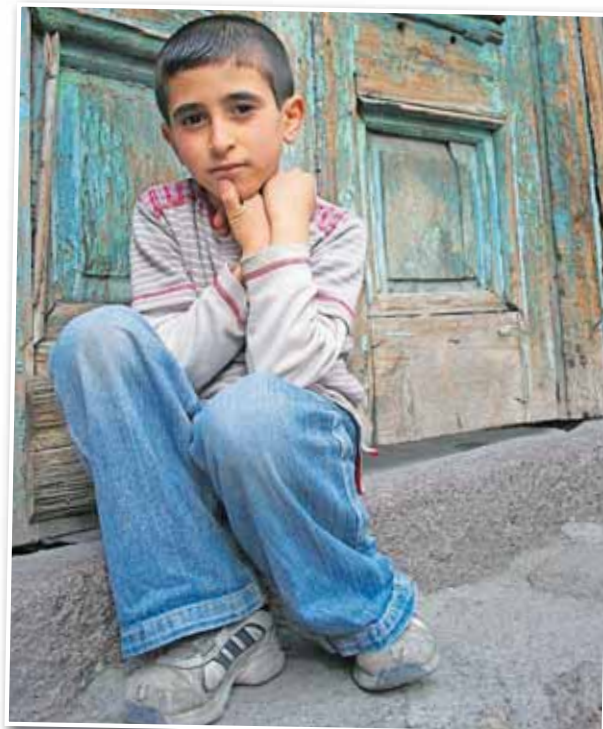
"There are clear advantages to the UK from a facility that allows UK authorities to identify and carry out security checks on travellers, and examine passenger and freight vehicles, on the continental side of the Channel.

"We believe the arrangements for juxtaposed borders and the co-operation which exists between police and border agencies on both sides of the Channel must continue.

"This is not just in the interests of the UK, but also France.

"Those involved in terrorism and criminal gangs do not respect borders and both countries need to be vigilant in confronting these ever-present threats.

"Maintaining the Le Touquet agreement should be acknowledged as a priority for the UK government."



HELP: KCC has a responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children entering the UK via the county

for the compassion and kindness they have been shown in their new communities."

Kent has certainly not been backward in coming forward in terms of providing real assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. As the frontline for so many entering the country through the ports, the county has found itself legally obliged to support hundreds of unaccompanied asylum seeker children - who do not

fall under the statistics in this latest report.

KCC leader Paul Carter added: "Kent is one of just three authorities picked out for particular praise by the Local Government Chronicle [weekly magazine for local government officers] for helping hundreds of vulnerable refugees.

"All districts across the county have risen to the challenge and expressed their willingness to accept Syrian families in need.

"Some districts, including Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Tonbridge and Dover already have families living in their areas and, so far, Kent districts have committed to accepting around 130 families over the next five years.

"KCC, health and other partners, will be supporting district councils to provide for these families who may need school places, have health or social care needs or need language

support.

"In addition to the Syrian families, we are also helping a high number of vulnerable unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

"Kent, more than any other local authority, has taken much more than its fair share of responsibility for the unprecedented influx of vulnerable young people, which number around

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

840 under-18s and more than 500 now over the age of 18.

"We are currently working with the government and other local authorities to ensure there is a fairer dispersal of these children and young people across the UK.

"People across Kent have been touched by the migrant crisis and, over the past year we have been inundated with offers of help and support for refugee families and the unaccompanied asylum seeking children."

Cllr Carter's sentiments were echoed by an independent county-based charity that provides help and support to asylum seekers and refugees, including minors who have arrived unaccompanied by an adult.

Ann Whitbourn, chair of Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN), told us: "Kent County Council and all its district councils have been the main providers of support and services to refugee and asylum seekers over the last year and are at saturation point.

"So it is only fair that other boroughs share the responsibility and start pulling their weight in offering support to this vulnerable group of people.

"With the government pledge comes a commitment to ensure these people are given the best possible advice and support, and we hope that other boroughs can learn from the great work that is being done in Kent to ensure that refugee and asylum seekers can live fulfilled, independent and successful lives in our communities."

Many of the thousands in the Calais 'jungle' - the camp set up in the French port where migrants and asylum seekers gather ahead of attempts to enter the UK - are children with family



HUNT: Those seeking refuge here have been forced to flee their homes

members in the UK or other ties to the country.

MPs say it is clear that many people in these camps are entitled to humanitarian protection or refugee status, and that their claims should be processed in the UK.

"Much more could and should be done through family reunion and accepting unaccompanied children, including increased use of safe and legal migration routes," they said.

While the committee warned that

allowing unaccompanied children to join family members already in the UK might result in more vulnerable young people making dangerous journeys to try to reach the UK, it agreed with comments made by the Bishop of Durham that the 157 unaccompanied children now in Calais who have family members in the UK "should already have arrived" in the UK.

It said the government should as a one-off accept all of these children into the UK now.

'JUNGLE' COURT RULING

The Home Office has won its appeal against a landmark ruling allowing four Syrian refugees living in the "jungle" camp in Calais to come to Britain.

An immigration judge ruled in January that the three teenagers and 26-year-old man with mental health problems should be brought immediately to the UK and reunited with their families.

But while the Home Office is not seeking to deport the four Syrians, it appealed against the ruling because it feared it could set a legal precedent and undermine Britain's control over its borders.

All four have been reunited with their families in various parts of the UK, two of them have been granted refugee status in Britain while the other two are still waiting for a decision to be made.

George Gabriel from Citizens UK, the charity that has repre-

sented the children, warned the ruling will lead to further delays and refugee children will be driven into the hands of people smugglers.

Under a law called Dublin III, asylum claims must be made in the first country the person reaches, but a child refugee can have their claim transferred to another country if they have relatives lawfully living there.

But lawyers for the Syrians argued the regulation was not working as not a single child had been brought to the UK from the Calais camp under the rule because of bureaucratic failings in France.



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Centre left party to rise from ashes of the chaos?

Believe the Whitehall rumour mill of Lib Dem and Labour deals and a new party could emerge. But would it work?

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

SUGGESTIONS that Conservative members concerned about the future of the party could switch allegiance to a breakaway centre-left opposition have been rubbished.

Liberal Democrat campaigner Lynne Beaumont, a former Shepway councillor and candidate during last year's general election in Folkestone and Hythe, says she would "not be at all surprised" to see a new political party emerge in the coming months.

It comes following weeks of clashing within the Labour party with regards to the polarising figure of Jeremy Corbyn, who is facing a leadership challenge but widely expected to remain at the head of the party.

A growing perception is that Mr Corbyn's far-left politics leave the modern Labour voter, traditionally the Conservatives' primary national opposition, isolated and without a strong alternative.

Following a car-crash general election in 2015, the Lib Dems appear in

no fit state to mount a challenge to the Tory throne next time we head to the polls, and so members within the party, including current and former leaders Tim Farron and Lord Paddy Ashdown have refused to rule out the possibility of the two parties merging.

And with the Conservative party also somewhat split in terms of how they voted in the EU Referendum [in Kent, ten opted to remain and six chose to leave], Mrs Beaumont believes some Tory members could be tempted to defect to a realigned opposition.

"People are talking to people, certainly," she told KoS.

"Corbyn will completely split the Labour party in half and you then wonder what they're going to do because there's no way back to the old party.

"The Lib Dems have always been there, left-of-centre, and I would not be at all surprised if there will be a new party on the horizon.

"It will be interesting and fascinating if there are Tories who will come the same way, because at the moment everybody seems to be wanting change."

However, Conservatives in Kent

have come out and slammed such suggestions, insisting their loyalties remain truly blue.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke voted Remain but has no intention, nor has he heard any rumblings, of defections from the party.

"After the last general election everyone understands their desire to make a recovery but to me this does not seem a practical solution," he told KoS.

"If they think the Conservatives are going to switch to another party they are completely deluded.

"I'm proud Theresa May is our prime minister and I'm a passionate believer in building a better Britain."

Whether such a party materialises or not, Mrs Beaumont is keen to stress the importance of having a cohesive opposition to the Conservatives, with local MPs, particularly Damian Collins in Shepway, appearing to lose the support of constituents over his backing of a lorry park for Operation Stack and a garden town in Otterpool.

"It's absolutely vital to have a strong opposition," she said.

"When you don't have that the Tories will just do what they want to do, so we need someone who can stand up to strong scrutiny, it's just about offering alternatives."

The Remain camp during the referendum appeared to unite members from each of the Conservatives, Labour and Lib Dems, and following the Brexit vote, there appeared to be hints of a slight Lib Dem revival, the scale of which in Kent, Mrs Beaumont revealed, has been massive.

"We've had a huge surge in members since the referendum," she said.

"We had a 'welcoming new members' meeting recently which was fascinating hearing people saying they were ashamed to have voted Tory just to stop the Ukip rise.

"These are intelligent people who have sat down and thought about who is representing them and what they want."

Tristan Osborne, Medway councillor and Labour's candidate for police and crime commissioner, is backing Owen Smith, rather than Mr Corbyn in the leadership race, but doesn't believe a breakaway party will, or should, bear fruit.

"There have been mutterings among members wondering what a

Corbyn victory would mean but I have heard no concrete plans for it.

"A lot of people are realistic because split parties like the SDP [Social Democratic Party] have proved disastrous and in my mind I can't foresee a split happening.

"There is a worry that if Corbyn wins, the party will haemorrhage support, and then where that would put us, I don't know."

However, Cllr Osborne believes the race for leadership will be far closer than the polls currently predict and the more centre-leaning Smith could yet spring a surprise victory.

"I know of a lot of members in Medway that are starting to change their mind and we've had one or two high profile moves towards supporting Smith.

"If the election was today, Corbyn would win, no doubt, but he is losing support and there's still time left in the race.

"The strategy for us is to gain more of a presence in Kent locally but we need a leader that resonates nationally because if you don't have that you're not going to win and if we don't win marginal seats in this county it doesn't bode well.

"We want a general election as soon as possible because Theresa May doesn't have a mandate and we believe there is always a chance for Labour when people are disillusioned with the Tories."

Many, including South Thanet's Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay, have said the reason for Ukip's existence has now gone, after achieving their primary aim of masterminding an exit from the EU.

Indeed without an MP or indeed a leader following the resignation of Mr Mackinlay's former election rival, and Westerham resident Nigel Farage last month, one could make a case for Ukip's race being well and truly run.

Cllr Osborne, however, is refusing to take anything for granted and insists the purple party remain a significant threat, particularly in Kent, where they are the main opposition on the county council and in fact gained a Labour seat in a by-election in Ashford on Thursday.

"A lot of people will vote for them as a protest, which is not just the case here, we've seen it across Europe and in the US as well with Donald Trump winning support.

"There are anti-establishment angry voters and I think Ukip will always have a share for people who put their finger up to the system.

"The Lib Dems won most of those pre-2010 but now Ukip is seen as the second biggest party in Kent and they are absolutely a threat and we shouldn't write them off in a million years.

"We need to be making a marked improvement to overcome them as well as the Tories."



BATTLE: Jeremy Corbyn and Owen Smith are fighting it out for the very future of the Labour party



CONVINCED: Lynne Beaumont believes new party could be viable



IDEAS: Paddy Ashdown is understood to be involved in talks

Ready for Rio? Stars set for glory

After all the talk, Brazil's Olympic Games was opened on Friday night. **Tom Pyman** looks at county's athletic hopefuls

AS the greatest show on earth kicked off with the traditional opening ceremony on Friday, attention now turns to our representatives in Brazil, hoping to bring medals back to Kent from the Olympic Games.

The hockey is already well underway, as the men's side, containing the likes of Ashley Jackson, Nic Catlin, Dan Fox, Iain Lewers, Barry Middleton, Sam Ward and George Pinner, took on Belgium on Saturday.

The ladies, meanwhile, faced Australia, with a squad that features Susannah Townsend, Sam Quek, Nicola White, Shona McCallin and Maddie Hinch.

Throughout the week, the men's team will face New Zealand, Brazil, Australia and Spain, while the women will face up against India, Argentina, Japan and USA.

The quarter-finals, should Team GB make it through the group, begin next Sunday and Monday (August 14 and 15).

Ashford-born Tom Ransley, who won a bronze in the men's eight in 2012, will look to make a march on the medal places with the rowing team, who also began their quest for glory on Saturday.



FESTIVAL: Brazilian Rico de Souza celebrates with the crowd as he prepares to surf with the Olympic torch at Macumba beach. It finally reached the Olympic Stadium in Rio on Friday night with a spectacular opening ceremony, heralding the official start of the Games - the first since London hosted in 2012.

Ransley is in action in the men's eight heats tomorrow (Monday) with ambitions of reaching the final on Saturday.

Tunbridge Wells' Bryony Shaw and Sophie Ainsworth of Ashford will also be in action on Monday in the sailing while Chatham trampolinist Kat Driscoll has a few days to prepare before her event on Friday, where she

will be looking to make amends for 2012 when she came agonisingly close to making the finals.

The starting gun in the athletics is also not fired until Friday, and it will be well into the next week when star names like Adam Gemili and Dina Asher-Smith make their way to the track with expectation weighing heavily on their shoulders.

KATE TARGETS PENTATHLON JOY

Sports fans have a little longer to wait until the athletics action gets under way, but that may well be a blessing for Meopham's Kate French, who has a little bit of extra time to prepare herself and make sure she is in tip-top condition for one of the most challenging disciplines at the Games.

The pentathlon consists of five, well-varied events, namely fencing, swimming, horse riding and a combined run/shoot and French has impressed with her versatility whenever she has been in action since bursting onto the scene as a teenager.

As a youngster, she got involved initially through Pony Club and doing Tetrathlons [riding, shooting, swimming, and running] and the Biathlon [running and swimming] at Cobham Hall school, which she left in 2009.

Great Britain have won nine medals at the last four World Championships, with French herself bagging two silver in 2014, so hopes are high that the 25-year-old can join an impressive list of achievements in this fascinating field as she prepares to make her Olympic debut.

Last year, she won a gold medal



in the team event competing alongside Samantha Murray and Freyja Prentice as well as a strong eighth-placed finish in the individual event at the European Championships.

French secured her place at the 2016 Games with a strong performance in Moscow before being officially selected for the team in June.

Outside competing, French has studied for a degree from the University of Bath, where she also trains throughout the year.

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FOX-PITT SADDLES UP FOR SUCCESS

William Fox-Pitt has declared himself "very ready" for the Rio Olympics - just nine months after a horror cross-country fall left him seriously injured.

An incident at the World Young Horse Championships in Le Lion d'Angers, France, saw him taken to hospital after suffering head trauma, and then being placed in an induced coma as he faced a long recovery.

But the former world number one eventer, who was educated at Wellesley House School in Broadstairs, never lost sight of getting in the team for Rio, and will achieve that aim next weekend when he lines up alongside colleagues Pippa Funnell, Gemma Tattersall and Kitty King.

"I always thought I would come to Rio, but I don't think anyone else did," Fox-Pitt said.

"I have always had that drive, and I certainly feel very ready for it

and looking forward to getting on with it. I have had amazing professional help, both physically and mentally, and I can't be grateful enough for that.

"I have been so lucky with my type of head injury. Mine has recovered in good time, and my family have been so supportive, really helping put me back to the way I am.

"I didn't ride for six months - it was on the back-burner.

"I have no recollection of the accident at all, so I have no fear. But I have had to sharpen myself up, and a lot of people have helped me do that.

"I started competing again in April, but when you have had a head injury, you lose all sense of adrenaline. I have always had adrenaline, but I just had nothing. It felt like I was schooling a horse at home, so I've had to understand that that is normal."



UMPIRE AIMS TO KEEP CONTROL AMID HEAT OF RIO ACTION

Perhaps some of the forgotten stars at the Games are the officials, and the county is also represented in this field by Andy Mair from Westgate-on-Sea, near Margate.

The hockey umpire is set to work at his third Olympics having started officiating domestically in

1990 before rising through the international ranks. "I had been umpiring local school matches while I was still playing for Canterbury in the National League, and it was suggested that I could be more likely to represent my country with a whistle than the

goalkeeping kit on," he told KoS. "It's always a strange time in the days leading up to a major tournament as we have a number of meetings to attend, in an effort to prepare the entire umpiring team. We will be itching to get the matches started soon and begin

doing what we are here for. "This is obviously the top for any sportsman that is playing in an Olympic recognised sport, and that feel rubs off on all of the officials too. If you make it here then you must be one of the very best in the world at what you do and that's a great

feeling for anyone. My family and friends probably get more excited about me being here than I do. Within the hockey fraternity it is always amazing how many people recognise that we are going to an Olympic Games and go out of their way to give their congratulations."

SAIL: Bryony Shaw will be in action on the water in the sailing event tomorrow (Monday) as she starts her quest for glory

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Messages for a golden moment

The Royal Mail's 2012 tribute of painting a postbox gold in the home town of Olympic champions was such a hit, there are plans afoot to provide a twist on the theme for those competing at Rio this year

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

A CARPENTER has put his skills to use to help rally the public around the county's Olympians as the nation gears up for Rio 2016.

With the opening ceremony of the Games taking place on Friday night into the early hours of Saturday morning, Terry Malone plans to create golden postboxes for medallists at this year's event, giving local communities the chance to send their congratulations and messages of support to successful athletes.

In 2012, more than 100 postboxes in the hometowns of gold medal-winners were painted gold to celebrate every Team GB gold medal won during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Organised by the Royal Mail, it was a special one-off tribute to celebrate success in the year the nation hosted the greatest sporting event on Earth.

But when Sevenoaks-born Lizzy Yarnold won gold during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in 2014, Royal Mail refused to revive its 2012 tribute - so West Kingsdown-based Mr Malone decided to come up with

one of his own.

He created the gold box which then toured schools and businesses for people to post messages to the skeleton winner.

He told Kent on Sunday: "It has got people involved in that they can celebrate a victory, and we are going to open it up to the whole of Kent.

"They are wooden postboxes which we paint gold. The idea being that when an athlete in Kent wins gold I will get in touch with the council or their old school and they can do what they want with it.

"We make post boxes for weddings for people to deliver messages to the happy couple. I said, well I could spray one gold, and it went from there.

"They will tour the schools in the area and will be at the victory parade full of cards and well wishes.

"The children can post a message and know it will get to the athlete."

And it proved a huge hit when West Kingsdown's Lizzy Yarnold triumphed two years ago.

"They are popular with schools and businesses. At the school, it was a great hit - children were writing a card and posting it, and we presented it to Lizzy at her victory parade.

"Children come up and see the postboxes, and they remember when they made a card and posted it."



WINNERS: West Kingsdown duo Terry Malone and Olympic champion Lizzy Yarnold with her special golden postbox

Kent has a number of medal hopefuls in the 2016 Olympics, including Adam Gemili from Dartford, Jack

Green from Maidstone, Tom Bosworth from Sevenoaks, Brian Shaw from Tunbridge Wells and Dina Ash-

er-Smith from Orpington.

Mr Malone has been making postboxes since he designed one for his own wedding, creating an original and then using a template for subsequent ones.

"They are all hand made and quite a lot of time goes into them," he explained, adding that people are already showing an interest in his scheme. "There has been a lot going on on Twitter and Facebook. People remember the postbox for Lizzy," Mr Malone said.

"I think we have got a few hopefuls, and anything can happen. I think we have more chance in the Paralympics.

"Even if we have got a favourite in a sport, it is never that simple. I have got a list of people and I keep an eye on them."

Lizzy Yarnold did not go without local recognition, however.

Her homecoming saw an open-top bus parade through the district, visiting local schools en route, while a local bus firm turned one of the vehicles gold as a special tribute to the Olympic champion.

When Kelly Holmes won her double gold at Athens in 2004, traffic in her home town of Tonbridge came to a halt as thousands flocked to see the Hildenborough athlete.

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WIN! Tickets to see Bryan Adams show

Canadian rocker plays Canterbury's Spitfire Ground next Saturday - and you can be there thanks to our competition

HE's rocked the world for more than 30 years and can still fill arenas - and for the first time ever Bryan Adams is playing a hits-heavy set in Kent.

The Canadian superstar is performing at the Spitfire Ground - home of Kent County Cricket Club - in Canterbury on Saturday, August 13 - and you can be there in the premium section by taking part in our great competition.

We have teamed up with organisers to offer a pair of platinum tickets to three lucky readers.

Performing as part of his European Get Up tour, the singer-songwriter, who has sold over 100 million albums and holds the record for the longest consecutive weeks at number one for his hit, (Everything I Do) I Do It For You, from the soundtrack of the Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves movie in 1991, will play his biggest hits at the Canterbury show.

They'll include the likes of Run To You, Can't Stop This Thing We Started, Summer of 69 and Heaven.

Bryan Adams said "The Get Up Tour

is shaping up to be a fantastic summer. We have seen such a great response from fans that we wanted to play as many places as possible, which is why I am delighted to now announce the Canterbury concert. We'll be rocking the stage with songs from the new album and of course there'll be some of the old favourites, too."

And don't worry if you're not one of the lucky winners, tickets for the show are still available from www.ticketmaster.co.uk and www.sky.com/tickets.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of platinum tickets - each ticket worth £65 and getting you the best view in the house - simply answer the following question. But be quick...the deadline for entry is 11.59pm on the evening of Tuesday (August 9).

Q. From what film did the monster Bryan Adams hit (Everything I Do) I Do It For You appear in?

A. Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves

B. Star Wars: The Phantom Menace

C. Herbie Goes Bananas

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first name, surname and email address to 63333, eg. KENTBRYAN C JOHN SMITH johnsmith@email.com. Texts cost 50p plus standard network rates. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted, but you may still be charged. Alternatively enter by post to KentBryan Competition, Archant KOS Media, Kent House, Station



LEGEND: He's had hits since the 1980s; can you afford to miss him?

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The Sportsman leads the line as seven eateries make top 100 list

County's ever increasing reputation for top quality restaurants is failing to slow down as the latest survey ranks a host as among the very best in all of the south east of England. What do you think?

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

KENT'S reputation as a culinary hotspot has received a welcome boost after seven of the county's restaurants made the top 100 of a leading restaurant guide.

West House in Biddenden; The Sportsman, Seasalter; Jojo's in Whitstable; The Goods Shed, Canterbury; Read's, in Faversham; Rocksalt, in Folkestone; and Chapter One, in Bromley, all made it on to Squaremeal's list.

Voted for by readers, bloggers and local foodies, the top 100 is unique because it is the only poll to exclude London restaurants.

As well as helping to boost the county's thriving tourist trade, restaurants provide a boon for local suppliers.

The Sportsman, near Whitstable, was the highest ranked Kent eatery coming ninth overall in the list.

Number one in the list was the three Michelin-starred Fat Duck restaurant, in Berkshire, created by world renowned chef Heston Blumenthal.

Owner of The Sportsman, Phil Harris, says such has been the praise heaped on his establishment over recent years, simply satisfying demand is one of his biggest challenges.

But points out that the benefit of having a destination restaurant in the county pays dividends.

He told KoS: "We have a lot of people from the continent – Belgian, Dutch, French – people come from quite a long way.

"We are then spending all our money in Kent, using almost exclusively Kentish suppliers. Money comes from outside the county and is spent inside the county.

"Chain restaurants buy stuff centrally and it doesn't do much. Individual restaurants do an awful lot more."

And he says the rise in quality venues in the county is only encouraging competition.

"The more quality dining, the bet-



TASTY: The Goods Shed at Canterbury

ter it is for everybody," he explains. "There are lots of very, very good businesses – the north Kent coast in particular has some fantastic restaurants.

"It is what pushes us and makes us want to be better."

Rocksalt, the restaurant overlooking the sea at Folkestone Harbour, was the next Kent venue at number 30. Created by Mark Sergeant, who worked for many years alongside Gordon Ramsay, it has been seen as a key driver in pulling visitors back into the coastal town and putting it back on the culinary map.

Next was The Goods Shed in Canterbury at number 47.

Manager Paulina Laskowska described it as 'absolutely amazing'. The restaurant is part of a busy and picturesque market in a former goods shed next to Canterbury West station.

She explained: "We have had some awards before but to be in a list with The Fat Duck is a great achievement," she said.

"We have made some changes to the menu and it seems to be working perfectly, so we are very pleased. It has been working extremely well.

"We simplified it a little bit and made sure the dishes are seasonal and unique and full of flavour.



BIDDENDEN: The West House is a regular award contender

"The menu changes twice a day at lunch and supper, and we generally try to achieve something different."

"We source 90 per cent of our ingredients from the farmers' market downstairs. The head chef will look around the market and use whatever he likes, and he draws up the menu before noon on the day."

Rola Pitchford and her husband David have owned Read's in Faversham since 1977.

She told KoS: "It is great, the fact that it is our customers who have voted, is always nice.

"It is also great that we have been able to keep the momentum going for 39 years.

"All of our produce comes from our kitchen garden. We have a very enthusiastic team and it is down to them, really. They work very hard to make the restaurant as good as it can possibly be – and I think it shows.

"The knowledge of, and enthusiasm for food keeps growing. People are more interested in food and they want to know the provenance of things – and rightly so.

"We started 39 years ago and now everybody says 'we only do local

East



DELICIOUS: Competition in the county is driving up quality



FAVERSHAM: Reed's above, and Rocksalt in Folkestone, below



cheeses and British cheeses', but we were doing British and Irish cheeses 39 years ago.

"It made sense back then, and we are surprised it has taken everyone else so long to realise it."

Owner of The West House, Graham Garret, has been in the business for 25 years and moved from London to open the Biddenden restaurant in 2002. It made number 70 in the list.

"We make everything on site and it is a quest to find the best ingredients

you can find and do the best with them in a nice, friendly environment," he says. "Every day we try to better than the one before.

"When I was in London in 1996, I remember saying to someone 'the bubble has got to burst soon' – you couldn't get any more cookery programmes on the TV. Twenty years later it is even bigger."

Chapter One, in Locksbottom, Bromley, came 74 in the list, with Tantarion tapas outlet Jojo's at 77.

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BEST: The Sportsman is top of the county pile once again

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Skintight: The art of a face painter

Simon Allin speaks to a talented artist who has made her reputation with a range of remarkable works of art using the naked body as her unusual canvas

ABODY artist is swapping the naked form for just the face in a new book designed to help everyone learn face painting skills and styles.

Liz Bylett, 52, from Meopham, near Gravesend, has worked on decorating the human for more 25 years, and has developed a reputation as one of the nation's finest face and body painters.

Now, having collected numerous awards, and carrying out demonstrations across the world - including a host of celebrity clients - she is hoping our love of face painting will help swell sales of her new book.

The Face Painters' Blueprint, which is out now, aims to put the

skills so often seen on show at fetes and festivals, into the hands of everyone.

The mother-of-three also has a body painting workshop, The Living Art Show, which she plans to run at the Maui Wau festival, in Suffolk, in September this year.

She explained: "I started face painting about 28 years ago and it was sort of a natural progression to extend it to the body.

"I just started art at school. I did a little bit in adult education, and I have always been very creative.

"I have taught many people at my own training school, and I also go into colleges and teach teachers."

With a teaching background, she taught at the University of the South Bank for five years before setting up her own training school. Mrs Bylett's company, Follies, holds regular courses at studios in Kent and London, covering face painting, body painting, creative and festival make up, eye designs, special effects, ultraviolet and henna.

"We do a lot of promotions and work for charity, and then we do more fantasy pieces," she said.

"So the inspiration could come from an artist - more fine art, like the old masters.

"I like to travel as well, so I get inspired by that. I was recently in Hawaii, in the jungle, and when I came back I did a beautiful piece based on that.

"It is nice to create something for the person. Sometimes they have something they want to express and we can bring that out - their alter ego, perhaps, something like that."

She works at everything from private events - where she can do both face and body works - to parties, sporting events to film premieres.

Mrs Bylett says the increasing popularity of body painting is linked to the rise in the number of people attending festivals where young and old alike can be seen sporting extravagant designs.

Her body painting workshop will feature at the Maui Wau festival, which runs from September 2 to 4 in Suffolk.

"There will be artists and models from all over the UK and we will be having an ultraviolet party in the evening," she said. "I think it is going to be quite crazy."

Body painting gives the impression the model is clothed when, in fact, the body is simply decorated.



TROPICAL: Liz Bylett has worked across the world



EXOTIC: The artist holds regular courses at studios



IDENTITY: National colours



DIVERSE: The Meopham resident paints in all shapes and sizes

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Bollywood's county inspirations

Kent's desirability as a location for the world's biggest movies shows no signs of slowing, with eagerly anticipated movie *Rustom*, which opens this week, visited a host of our towns to film essential shots

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE county is fast developing an appetite as the perfect location for blockbuster Bollywood hits - with another shot in various locations due to hit the big screen next week.

The hard-hitting drama *Rustom* is in cinemas from August 12.

The film crew spent time in the county in April, filming key scenes in places like Canterbury, along the Maidstone river path and County Hall, Leeds Castle, Aylesford, and the Historic Dockyard Chatham.

And the county has cashed in as a result - banking around half a million pounds to the local economy courtesy of the crew's stay.

Rustom tells a story of love, deceit, death and the judicial system of 1959 India. The Hindi thriller is inspired by the real life story of Indian Navy Commander Kawas Manekshaw Nanavati.

He was put on trial for murdering his English-born wife's lover.

Her tangled love-life was also put on trial and exposed in dramatic courtroom scenes that had crowds gathered outside.

The sordid love tangle divided the nation at the time, with many believing him to be innocent. The film shows him shooting the lover three times, and then pleading not guilty.

What follows is both a tense and romantic tour of some of Kent's best loved spots. It is directed by Tinu Suresh Desai and written by Vipul K. Rawal.

The emotional rollercoaster stars Akshay Kumar, Ileana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta and Arjan Bajwa.

Assisting the production was the Kent County Council Film Office which worked flat out finding suitable locations and arranging road closures.

It has helped a host of major motion pictures and TV dramas be filmed in the county over recent years. Among them the likes of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Les Misérables* and the second series of hit TV show *The Tunnel*.

Co-ordinated by the county council, the aim is to encourage not only cash to be generated by the crews staying here, but also to boost tourism.

The office said the production company filmed in Kent for nine days with an additional 20 days for pre and post-production, spending £570,000.

The Film Office manager, Gabrielle Lindemann, said: "We had an existing relationship with the producer, having worked on previous projects together and met them along with the *Rustom* team in late 2015 to assist with finding locations and arranging reces.

"We assisted throughout the film shoot in April of this year, in particular with a complex night shoot in Canterbury involving road closures which we facilitated with various partner agencies. We look forward to seeing Kent on screen once again."

Additional scenes were filmed at



HIT: Movie filmed at the Historic Dockyard Chatham, above. It hits the big screen this coming Friday



COAST: Film crew, who shot scenes across Kent, invested around £570,000 into the local economy



ACTION: Crews at Leeds Castle and the scene at its maze

night in Canterbury, and leader of the council Simon Cook, added: "We were very pleased to welcome the stars and crew of *Rustom* to Canterbury and to help make this filming happen.

"They used some of our most historic streets, including Burgate, Sun

Street and Sun Yard, for their night shoot and we're looking forward to seeing them on the big screen."

Leeds Castle spokesman Gemma Wright said they used their famous maze, and went on: "With Kent's excellent reputation for TV and film production, we were delighted to sup-



CLOSED: Streets in Canterbury were closed for night filming

port the production and for the castle's beautiful surroundings to be used as locations to be featured in the movie.

"Our birds of prey were bemused to see a giant drone hovering high in the sky to film aerial shots of the leading couple having a romantic kiss in the centre of the maze.

"Filming also took place on the moat, where the actors were floated through the ancient castle arches in a wooden punt.

"The Pavilion Lawn, usually used by families picnicking, was transformed into a graveyard. We are not only 'the loveliest castle in the world'

but also a stunning film location and we are thrilled to have been able to take Leeds Castle to Bollywood for the first time in its 900 year history."

Bollywood is the name given to popular movies which come from the India movie industry based in Mumbai - formerly Bombay. The name is a variation on Hollywood in California.

Bollywood flicks have become huge box office not just on the sub continent, but increasingly to audiences around the world. The production line is remarkably, with some 800 produced each year.

It feeds an insatiable appetite of the 18 million daily cinema goers in India.



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COLOUR: Food, drink and music was festival's underlying theme



BLAST: Fireworks were the traditional finale on the beach



CROWDS: Grotters, above left, sculpted from oyster shells, and the busy harbour

Oyster festival is pearl in a shell

Some 80,000 headed to Whitstable recently for the annual, hugely popular, summer knees-up

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GLORIOUS weather blessed the Whitstable Oyster Festival this year - with more than 80,000 visitors flocking to one of the summer's most in-demand events.

The coastal town staged its annual celebration of its seafood harvest - kicking off with the traditional blessing of the oysters at the end of last month, and concluding last weekend.

And after the success of this year's event, plans are already being drawn up for next year.

The organisers said the crowds turned out in large numbers helped by the pleasant weather as summer finally started.

A spokesman said: "Some of the major

highlights for this year included having the brilliant harbour food fair over two weekends.

"They both had some excellent turn-out due to the great weather."
But it wasn't all about just the oysters and a full programme of entertainment was also included in the festival.

The spokesman said: "We also had sold out music from the Cuban Brothers and a comedy improvisation all-star shows in The Shuck - a venue created for the festival. There was also Goldie and Terry Hall DJ sets.

"It's hard to say what the plans for next year will be as it's still relatively early, but we want to ensure it is better than this year.

"Considering the success and great organisation, it will be a tough act to follow, but we are determined to do just that."

The festival plays hosts to a whole variety



ety of global traders, plus plenty of local Whitstable Harbour stalls.

The organisers say all this helps makes the event an authentically British but still very cosmopolitan affair.

Public support has steadily grown over the years, and from a community celebration it is now a truly national event, with visitors being drawn from across the UK and Europe for the 10 days of events.

PURE WEDDINGS

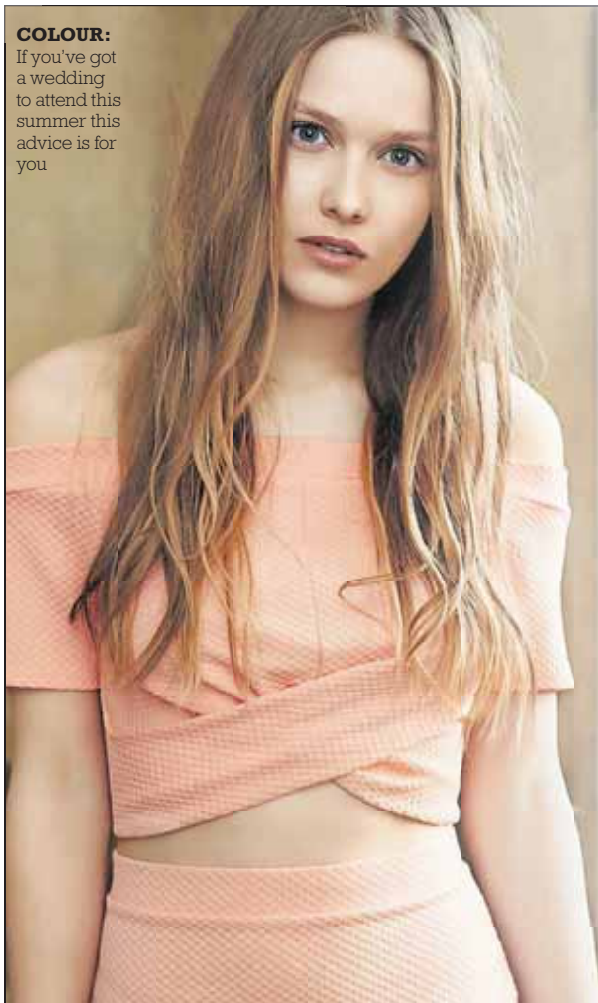
A close-up photograph of a bride and groom smiling at each other. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a striped tie. The bride is on the right, wearing a white wedding dress and a veil. They are surrounded by falling confetti. The background is softly blurred.

Dress to impress
Guide for guests

Give it some fizz
Tasty toasting

Location, location, location
Tie the knot in style

COLOUR:
If you've got
a wedding
to attend this
summer this
advice is for
you



Guide for guests on the ideal wardrobe

WHEN it comes to getting dressed up for a wedding, there are so many 'rules' to follow that most end up being a sea of men in boring grey suits and women in humdrum floral frocks.

But unless you're at an ultra-conservative church do, most of this so-called protocol is outdated, and actually, pushing the boundaries can pay off style-wise, helping you stand out from the play-it-safe crowd.

Here's how to (tastefully) break the rules this wedding season...

BE THE BLACK SHEEP

The rule: Don't wear black

If your everyday wardrobe consists of black, black and more black, don't think you have to abandon your go-to hue for someone else's big day - but remember that wearing it head-to-toe in a church is going to look decidedly funereal.

Instead, look for a dress that breaks up the expanse of black with a print or texture - lace is ideal - and add intensely coloured accessories to lift the look.

FLASH A LITTLE FLESH

The rule: Never wear a crop top

The crucial word here is 'little'; a V-neck halter crop top and mini skirt are going to attract stares for all the wrong reasons, but a tiny sliver of midriff is acceptable.

That sliver shouldn't include your belly button, however - pair high-waisted trousers, a pencil or full prom skirt (no shorter than knee-length) with a crop top in a structured fabric, like jacquard.

There are lots of matching co-ords in the shops at the moment that are the perfect proportions, thereby taking out the suitability guesswork.

BE RED-Y FOR ANYTHING

The rule: Don't wear red

Red used to signify vampish and vulgar, but as long as you don't turn up in a thigh-slit Jessica Rabbit-esque number, you needn't worry.

A pretty red lace or modern minimalist dress is totally wedding-appropriate, especially when teamed with more traditional floral footwear. It's all about balance.

PLAY YOUR STRONG SUIT

The rule: It has to be a dress

'I've got to get a dress for a wedding', we so often whine, but why not

use the occasion to step out of your comfort zone and try a suit?

Tailoring is having a huge fashion moment, so the shops are full of gorgeous floral and pastel two-pieces that you can jazz up with jewellery and heels.

The other advantage of a suit is that you'll get more post-wedding wear out of the separates, unlike the glitzy gowns that mostly hang unworn in our wardrobes for months (years, even) after the big day.

WAVE THE WHITE FLAG

The rule: Don't wear white

It's the most contentious etiquette question of all: is it ever OK for a guest to wear white to a wedding?

Modern manners dictate that you can, but with caution.

The key is that it can't look bridal in any way, so steer well clear of frothy all-white looks, in favour of sharp modern cuts and prints.

Use the 50/50 rule (no more than half of the outfit should be white), and make sure you include a bright jacket or scarf in the mix.



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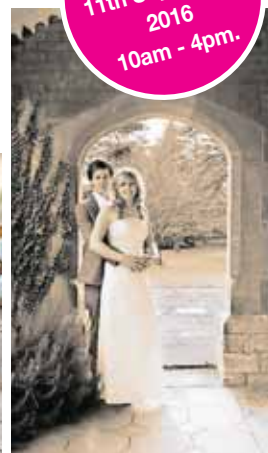
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Float to your honeymoon heaven

FINDING the perfect honeymoon location is no easy task; after all, do you want to spend that post modern bliss locked in adventure, soaking up the rays, or simply enjoying one another's company?

But a timeless classic for lovers throughout the centuries and a reliable trip to suit most budgets is surely Paris.

Easily accessible courtesy of Eurostar - or just a relatively short drive after hopping across the Channel - there are plenty of options.

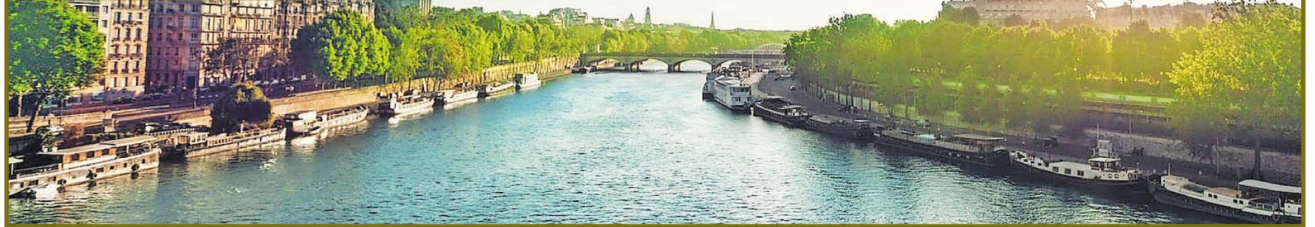
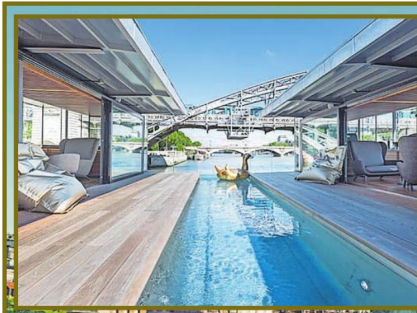
It once divided a city by wealth and status, and even today visitors to the French capital have a favoured bank of the Seine; while sightseers tend to veer a droite, artists and creative types clearly keep a gauche.

Right now, though, the focus of activity is the river itself, dubbed the city's 21st arrondissement, where buoyant bars bob between bridges and dockside cafes are flooded with life.

A new waterborne hotel is also set to keep the seasonal tourist industry afloat, dispelling the popular myth that Paris shuts shop in August.

Stick close to the water and the French capital quickly becomes a great option for combining culture, fine dining and soaking up urban rays.

And for newly weds, what better



SEINE: The French capital remains the capital of lovers and with good reason...

way to spend a little quality time than waking up on the river itself?

Watching waves lap window panes as barges cruise past, has to be one of the more novel ways to rise and shine in Paris.

Docked on a section of the river between Charles de Gaulle Bridge and the Austerlitz viaduct, a five-minute walk from the Gare d'Austerlitz train station, this 58-room purpose-built hotel, Off

Paris Seine, opened at the end of June.

On sunny days, local Parisians hang out alongside guests on the open-air terrace and a poser's lap pool provides a cooling toe dip if temperatures soar. Just make sure you pack teeny-weeny swimwear to fit in with the beautifully cool crowd - or hide your shame behind the hotel's giant gold inflatable duck.

From 5pm-1am, cocktails and

tapas are served, although the hedonism continues after dark with picnicking revellers on the quay, or at several party barges on the opposite bank.

Compact rooms have a subtle nautical theme, with sand dunes rising above beds and light switches disguised as a ship's control desk. A gentle articulation in the hull simulates a rocking motion, making you really feel like you're sleeping at

sea.

But don't worry - there's no chance of sinking. The hotel's design was masterminded by architects Gerard Ronzatti-Seine Design, who specialise in floating structures and recently designed a floating hospital at the port of de la Rapee.

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Sparkling ideas to toast the couple

IT WOULD hardly be a wedding if there is not at least a little fizz being used for the toast.

And the good news today is that you have a far broader range of top quality sparkling wines to choose from to delight both you and your guests.

Because if you're looking for bubbles to dance across the tastebuds there are plenty to suit any budget - from Champagne to prosecco and much more besides.

Here are just a few worth closer inspection.

CAVA TO COUNT ON

Offering fruity drinking pleasure that achieves a lovely balance between freshness and crisp acidity, Marques Del Norte Vintage Cava Brut 2014, Spain (£7, Asda) comes with the stamp of approval from the International Wine Challenge (IWC) where it won a silver medal. Dry, delicious and lots of fun.

NEW KIWI IN TOWN

If you love the delicate sweetness of prosecco and can't resist a glass of pinot grigio, then you'll be attracted to this fruity fizz made from pinot grigio grapes. Try Shorn Fizz, New Zealand (£8.75, Oddbins) which has pretty notes of pear and yellow apple and a refreshing, soft mousse.

ACE APERITIVO

It may not have a posh label, but



TTD Prosecco Conegliano Superiore Brut 2015, Italy (£10, Sainsbury's) is one of the best own label proseccos and more than delivers with its creamy mousse, honeysuckle notes and apricot and white peach flavours. And you can also celebrate summer by making a refreshing spritz: three parts prosecco, two parts Aperol, one part soda.

MODERNISTA-STYLE

Inspired by the architecture of Barcelona, Codornieu have decorated this beautiful bottle like a stained glass window and with apple blossom, pear and citrusy flavours, and a richness on the palate, Codornieu Cuvee Barcelona, Spain (£12.99, Tesco) looks as good as it tastes.

LITTLE LUXURY

Laithwaites best selling sparkler, Roche Lacour 2014, Cremant de Limoux AOC, France (£12.49, www.laithwaites.co.uk) is a chardonnay-based blend from Limoux in southern France. Fresh yet rich with breadly aromas and lots of ripe orchard fruits and a touch of lemon.

it's delightfully drinkable and remarkable value.

LONGING FOR MORE

A New World fizz from Australia's most exciting sparkling wine region, Jansz Vintage Cuvee 2010, Tasmania, Australia (£21.99, www.frazierswine.co.uk) is a blend of chardonnay and pinot noir and

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displays all the toasty richness you'd expect in a vintage champagne. With enticing nutty nuances and a full, long, creamy palate, it's a jazzy summer sparkler and a Decanter silver medal winner.

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Riesling Sekt Extra Dry NV, Germany (£18, www.theseccellarcellar.co.uk) from this top-notch producer. With a delightful floral bouquet, an elegant fruity character with green apple and citrus fruits, there's an underly-

ing minerality and welcome touch of sweetness on the fine, crisp finish.

CREAM OF THE CROP

Let's face it, if you're going to splash out on a bottle of Champagne, it may as well be a Decanter Gold medal winner. Try Abel Charlot



POP: There are some great options other than Champagne which can add some fizz to the big day



Vintage Brut 2005, France (£32, Marks & Spencer). Along with the palate having "a lovely creamy texture with dry apricots and baked apple fruits," it's also blessed with a nutty complexity and a long, luxurious finish.

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Scenic delights for dream venues

ORGANISING your wedding can be a complicated, confusing, expensive and blood pressure raising experience. And top of the list so often is the issue of just where exactly to tie the knot.

The good news, is that Kent has more than its fair share of venues - and to suit every budget.

Whether it is with close family and friends at a registry office event, or hiring out a venue to stop guests in their tracks, the options are wide and varied.

A great place to start your search for the venue which best suits your needs is www.akentishceremony.com - it provides a comprehensive guide to venues and the facilities they offer.

From the likes of Chiddingstone Castle - which has three venues in which you can hold the ceremony before retiring for a splendid reception within its 35 acres - to the artists' beach house in Whitstable for an intimate setting with glorious sea views.

Staying with the grand theme, what about Westenhanger Castle, a splendid discrete venue providing space for 300 guests - and the perfect venue from which to hop across the Channel for your honeymoon? Or perhaps Bleak House in Broadstairs - where the author Charles Dickens once stayed and wrote David Copperfield?

Love motor racing? Then the world



LOCATION: From Bleak House in Broadstairs, above, to the likes of Chiddingstone Castle, left, there are options to suit every pocket in Kent so get finding your perfect wedding location right now

famous Brands Hatch track now hosts ceremonies. If cricket is more your thing, then why not soak up the history at the home of Kent County

Cricket Club in Canterbury? And with the drink always flowing at receptions, why not start early with a ceremony at a vineyard such as the

Hush Heath Estate in Staplehurst? And that's just the very tip of the iceberg. The range is as wide as your imagination will allow.

The one thing you are guaranteed of, however, is a venue which will ensure your married life gets off to the very best possible start.

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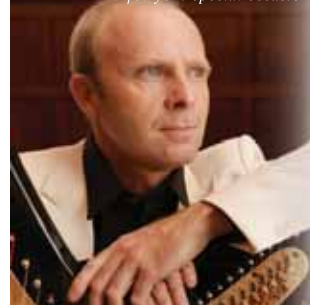
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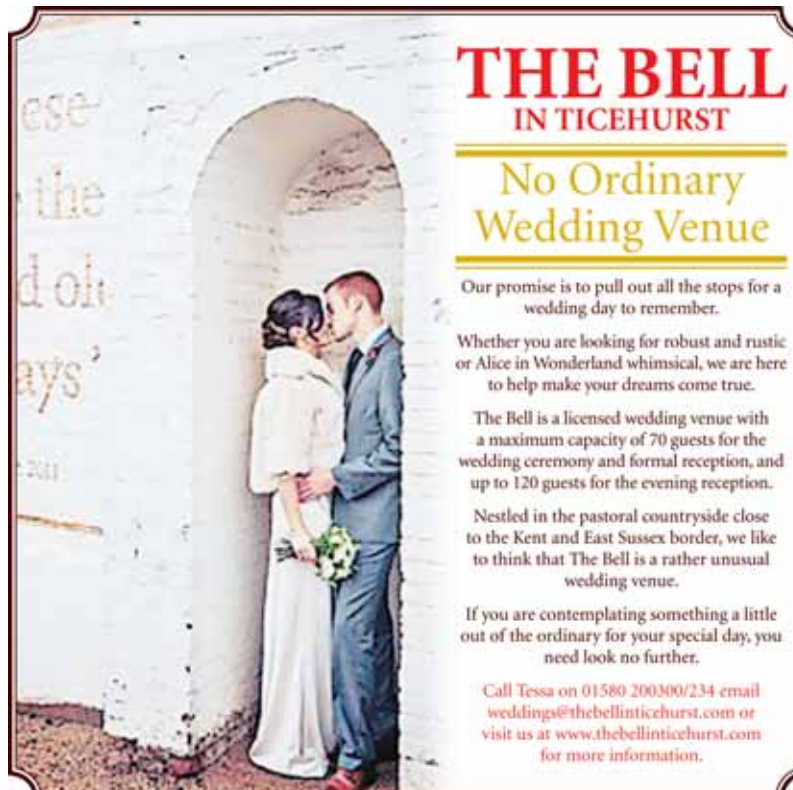
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ACCLAIMED: Greg Davies has appeared in a number of acclaimed TV comedies, including *The Inbetweeners*, *Man Down* and *Mock The Week*

'Kingpin of British comedy' brings stand-up to Margate

Well known for his TV work, Greg Davies has announced a new tour of the UK

COMEDIAN and TV star Greg Davies is heading to Margate on his first new stand-up show in four years.

Described by the *Evening Standard* as 'one of the kingpins of British comedy', Davies has written and starred in three series of Channel 4's critically acclaimed sitcom *Man Down*.

After playing infamously psychotic Head of Sixth Form Mr Gilbert in *The Inbetweeners*, he starred in BBC Three's *Cuckoo* alongside Andy Samberg and Taylor Lautner, which earned him a BAFTA nomination for Best Male Performance in a Comedy Programme, and which airs its third series in 2016.

The Welsh-born comedian studied English and Drama at Brunel University and originally

began his career as a secondary school teacher.

He taught drama and English for 13 years at Langleywood School in Berkshire, Orleans Park School in Twickenham and Sandhurst School in Berkshire.

Davies rose to comedic fame as part of sketch team *We Are Klang*, which performed four sell-out Edinburgh Festival shows and was nominated in 2006 for the Edinburgh Comedy Award.

While he was with *We Are Klang*, he wrote and starred in the group's own sitcom series and a one-off comedy entertainment special for BBC Three.

Channel 4 comedy *The Inbetweeners* gave him one of his most prominent roles as secondary school teacher Mr Gilbert, who has no interest in work and treats his pupils with complete contempt.

He appeared as the misanthropic teacher in both feature length films of the *Inbetweeners*, released in 2011 and 2014.

Nowadays, he is the host of Dave's hit comedy show *Taskmaster*, which was first broadcast in 2015 and returns for two more series in 2016.

The show, which pits famous contestants against one another in a series of lateral thinking exercises, has been nominated for the Broadcast Awards' Best Entertainment Show.

Davies' debut solo stand-up show *Firing Cheeseballs At A Dog* was nominated for the prestigious Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award in 2010, and went on to have a three-time extended sell-out national tour.

In 2013, he returned with another sell-out tour with *The*

Back of My Mum's Head.

Davies is also well known for his appearances in panel shows such as *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, *Mock The Week* and *8 out of 10 Cats*.

He guest appeared and was team captain on BBC One's *Would I Lie To You*, and was team captain on two series of *Ask Rhod Gilbert*, with whom he also appeared on BBC Two's *Dangerous Roads*.

Man Down, which is now in its third series, sees Davies playing Dan, a teacher who hates his job and struggles to get through life with the help of his dysfunctional best friends.

The New Tour, *Magnificent Beast*, is coming to the Winter Gardens, Margate, on September 15, 2017.

Standard tickets are on sale now and are priced at £27.50.

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LISA, fun loving and free, WLTm passionate, broadminded male, any age, discreet honest, seaside location. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422877

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363

KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curly figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. Text only Mailbox: 5512493

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

WELL travelled widow, 70 years young, GSOH, lively and outgoing, lots of interests including walks, bowls, socialising and the theatre, WLTm similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423029

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

TAMARA, Indian woman, Muslim, 43, golden brown skin, long black straight hair, WLTm male in his 40s. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423153

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 421657

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

FELICITY, well educated, sophisticated lady, 38yrs, unhappily married and looking for a distraction with a man 30+ must be discreet. Text Only Box: 4023417

MARIA 57, likes gym, outdoors, wild, seeking nice male for nights out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417573

BLACK professional female seeks professional/tall Lebanese or Egyptian or Indian (must be fair skinned man)... for marriage. Text only Mailbox: 5433562

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunet, 34yrs, own house/car with gent any age, looks/kind unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 422415

KAY, 66, slim blonde, 5'5, very active, loves travel, outdoor life and much more. Seeks white guy 60-69 in Reading area. Text only Mailbox: 5312512

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

YOUNG at heart lady, 60s, genuine, seeks warm, down-to-earth gentleman, similar age, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420773

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

LAURA, single mum, 29yrs, blue eyed blonde, fair skinned, pretty. Lonely and seeking adult company when the kids are in bed! ACA. Text Only Box: 4161735

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411

EARLY 70s, young at heart widow, likes dancing, eating out and in, pub lunches, theater and cinema, keep fit, the sun, WLTm gent 65-75, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421761

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel. WLTm similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

WIDOW would like to meet a gent 64-74yrs with a good sense of humour, I love dancing, cinema, theatre, pub lunches, all the normal things. There must be someone out there and I live in Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418727

50YRS, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet cent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469

MALE, blue eyes, slim and lovely, from South Africa, young fifties, seeking a sincere, retired gentleman, who resides close to the sea. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

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YOUNG 56 year old lady, gosh, 5ft5, larger lady, affectionate, likes eating out, films, music, socialising, looking for a relationship with a genuine, honest, loving, romantic man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421363

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTm a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

SUSAN 44, blonde hair, well educated, professional, GSOH, likes music, travel, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414069

SLIM blonde lady, very young 66, active, fun loving, many interests, seeks unattached white guy, 60-68, Reading area. Text only to mailbox: 5312512

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft 12, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

DAISY 50, WLTm nice guy 45-59 for discreet friendship maybe more. Likes going for a drink, rock music and holidays. Text only to Mailbox No: 5082641

CAROLE 52, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448

LORNA, Afro-Caribbean lady, retired nurse, late 60s, seeking similar aged gentleman, n/s, someone who is kind and honest, looking for friendship. Croydon area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420183

GEORGE you left Carole a message but I did not get your phone number, please call again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380942

KAY, young 66, widow, slim, blonde, 5'5, GSOH. Very active, loves travel, outdoor life and loads more looking for white male. Text only to mailbox no: 5312512

Men Seeking

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COUNTRY gent, 50, seeks open minded lady, for fun and friendship, possibly more, by impulse romantic, dining out and in, and sexy fun too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423127

TALL, fit, funky guy, early 50s, Basingstoke, would like some female company, to enjoy hot summer days and cold winter evenings with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423149

WALLACE, 60, 5ft3, seeking a genuine petite lady, 57-67, likes holidays in Spain, looking for a LTR for love and much more. Surrey, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423313

BEN, kind caring gent, 37yrs, very tall and well built with curly black hair. Own home, good job, just missing a special lady. Text Only Box: 4158248

PENSIONER widower with car seeks sequence ballroom dancer who is good with naughty boys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418113

HARRY, 56, attractive guy, divorced, looking for an attractive female for meet ups and erotic, sensual, no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423159

EASY going male 56, athletic build looking for a lady for fun times and leisure activities. Any age. I'm in Worthing. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

FUN loving, discreet man, looking for NSA friendship and fun with a very open minded lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423191

MARINA cuddly blonde, blue eyes, kind, caring, loyal, down to earth, lonely girl. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414627

CHANTELLE, 5ft3, light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox No: 4923883

KAY 66 widow, slim, blonde 5'5, fun loving, loves travel, out door life and much more. Seeks similar man aged 59-69 for friendship, maybe more. Text only to Mailbox no: 5312512

ELLEN, young retired, divorced, new to W Sussex, seeks friend for outings, dinners and similar. Must be 55-65 genuine, educated and fun. Text only to Mailbox no: 5068202

ANDREA pre-op transsexual, 56 years old, blonde hair blue eyes, likes cosy nights in, pubs meals, loves travel, outdoor life and loads more looking for a nice man. Text only to Mailbox no: 5310019

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BEN, 48, musician, nice looking, fit, 5ft10, intelligent, caring, charming, clean-cut image, seeks lady any age/looks who requires daytime, discreet, very passionate fun meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421399

PAUL 51 genuine WLTm female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5447746

WIDOWER with car, seeks female ballroom/sequence dancer. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418377

HOVE pensioner, widower, with a car, seeks dominant female for adult, naughty fun, age and looks not important. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419479

MARK, 50, handsome, great physique, 5ft10, seeking a lady, 50-75, for morning or afternoon fun, chats and fantastic passion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422945

JOHN, Sussex gentleman, 6ft, very tactile, seeks lady, 30-60, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422903

OLD pensioner/widower, with car, seeks female for adult fun and role-play, I also dance, sing and swim. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421139

MATURE male, married, looking for adult daytime fun with a lady, any status/age/nationality, give me a call I s have some fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423077

CLIFF young 50s, working nights, has plenty free time in day, looking to meet lady for fun, maybe more. Age 30-55. Text only Mailbox: 5495780

RYAN 50yrs, 5ft 9ins, medium build, considered attractive, N/S, lives London, loves Eastbourne, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404739

WELL travelled, tall, fit widower in his 70's living in mid Sussex, seeks a lively widow for outings, stimulating conversation. Text only Mailbox: 5473939

THOMAS Jamaican male, 68, n/s, likes walking, theatre, cinema and holidays, seeks slim to medium build West Indian lady, 65-68, n/s, for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422629

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MATURE male seeks female, any age/status not important for casual fun. Nice flat, nice car. Witney. Text only Mailbox: 5467178

48YR old male, seeks female, 30-60 who enjoys the good things, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, holidays, weekends away etc. East Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386756

JACK, 55, good looking, fit and in shape WLTm broadminded lady, any age for social and relaxation interludes. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

PAUL, 53, business man, genuine, likes eating out, films, music, holidays and having fun, WLTm a similar loving, caring female, age and looks unimportant for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422521

MALE 48, own business, average looks, medium build and looking for love. Must like the good things in life, 30-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390746

PASSIONATE male missing female companionship, would you like to join me in discreet fun and adult humour? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406611

PAUL 51, likes meals out, music, weekends away, seeking female to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413479

ALAN, 56, single, from Brighton, looking for a lady, 50-59, who is nice and easy to get along with, and would be interested in going out for a drink and a meal and a chat then give me a call! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421955

MALE, 42, fit, active, stocky, seeks larger lady, 40-50ish, for NSA fun, Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422481

PAUL 46, 5ft 8ins, 14st, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks Miss Right/soul mate, friend and lover. 30-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379206



76YR old

widower, ex military/air lines, likes boating, motor cycling, seeks Tinkerbell to make me laugh again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409201

LADY, 70+, sought by caring and affectionate 70 year old male, for long term, intimate relationship, initially daytime only, larger lady very welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421995

OUTGOING friendly guy seeks similar female to share good times with. Text only Mailbox: 4915263

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, separated, have grown up teenagers, lives alone, works full time, looking for that special someone that will lead to a LTR and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421943

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, looking for female, 39-51, with very GSOH, loyal, honest, caring, single mum welcome, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422315

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HELLO I'm Tom, 33, decent looking, fit, into the gym and running, loves animals, get in touch and leave me a message! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422065

49YR old male, interesting, exciting, outgoing, seeking similar aged female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417825

HOWARD, works full time as a psychic, lives in Hastings, looking for a likeminded female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422555

JACK 55, slim, athletic, clean, intelligent, WLTm female 35 to 55 for rearing and stress free interludes WORTHING area text only. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

Gay Seeking

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ALERIC cuddly blonde, late 50's, 5ft 1ins, seeks bi lady of similar age for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410203

60S bi male, WLTm similar guys for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423273

MALE, 68yrs, 5ft 4ins looking for genuine gay male, similar height and size. Text only Mailbox: 4859409

MATURE bi male seeks similar for fun and friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4641909

Bi male, seeking to meet pre op TS or TV, for no stings attached, local fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422647

Bi guy WLTm similar bi or gay guy, 18-30. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421283

Friends

SARAH 35, bi, seeking that special someone, male/female, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413123

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Iconic venue celebrates 105 years of top entertainment

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

MARGATE'S Winter Gardens is celebrating 105 years as one of the leading entertainment venues in east Kent.

The grand Victorian venue was opened in 1911 by the then Mayor Alderman WB Reeve, and has since become firmly established in music and comedy history, hosting legends such as The Beatles, Norman Wisdom and Frankie Howard.

A range of high-profile figures have visited the Winter Gardens over the years, including The Queen Mother in 1986 and past prime ministers including Sir Winston Churchill.

Steve Davis, managing director at Your Leisure, said: "The Winter Gardens continues to provide the local community and visitors to the area with an opportunity to enjoy top class entertainment or celebrate that special occasion at the many events held within the complex every year.

"It has continually adapted over the last 105 years to ensure it re-



HISTORY: The Winter Gardens opened in 1911 in response to the town's substandard entertainment scene

mains an important asset for the area and will support the ongoing regeneration of Margate – its own refurbishment will allow this to continue for many years to come."

The Winter Gardens was built when the council and the Chamber of Commerce decided to take action after the entertainment offered by the town to the visitor via private enterprise was deemed inadequate.

A Fetes Committee was formed in 1900 and given power to directly run and own places of entertainment, the culmination of which was the now-famous Fort Crescent venue.

In addition hosting a diverse programme of entertainment, from pop concerts to local talent shows, The Winter Gardens has been a significant part of the local community through the years.

During the Second World War, it acted as a receiving station for some of the 40,000 troops landed at Margate during the Dunkirk evacuation.

The venue was damaged in the war when a bomb shattered the east wing in July 1941.

In 1946, the war damage was repaired and a new stage constructed, preparing the venue for the exciting years ahead.

Jonathan Creek in return

UNIVERSITY of Kent alumni Alan Davies has confirmed he will return for a 90-minute special of his celebrated drama series Jonathan Creek.

It will be the latest in a series which first started back in 1997.



Soul legends in Margate

ONE of the most successful soul groups of all time, Shalamar, is to perform in Margate this year.

The band, which scored hits with Night to Remember, There It Is, I Can Make You Feel Good, and many others, play at The Winter Gardens on November 22.

Spectacular science

TV astronomer Mark Thompson will explore the wonders of the universe when his show comes to Canterbury this autumn.

He will appear at the Gulbenkian on September 18.



Vintage Ayckbourn play

VINTAGE Alan Ayckbourn play Time and Time Again is to be shown at the Hever Festival this month.

Perhaps the funniest of Ayckbourn's works, it tells the story of love sought, fought for, won and lost in a tangle of suburban relationships.

It will be shown at 8pm on August 18 to 21.

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Evening of food and music

GRAHAM Garrett, the patron of The West House restaurant in Biddenden, will host a one-off pop-up event at the Old Fire Station in Tonbridge.

Featuring food and music, it will take place on August 8.



Kast Off Kinks to perform

FORMER members of legendary band The Kinks, including Mick Avory and John Dalton, are back together and heading to Margate next year.

Their show, Kast Off Kinks, which features the bands biggest hits, heads to The Winter Gardens on March 31, 2017.

Lucy Porter touring UK

COMEDIENNE Lucy Porter is back on tour and heading to Tunbridge Wells.

She has performed consistently popular solo shows for 15 years and will appear at Trinity Theatre on September 30.



Robot Wars in Medway

THE University of Greenwich's Medway Campus is to host Robot Wars shows in a full-size arena on September 23 to 25.

The university is building its own heavy-weight robot using supermarket trolleys to compete in dramatic style against any challengers.

Rockers given chance to relive Ramblin' Man

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

ROCKERS who attended this year's Ramblin' Man Fair can relive the experience with an official live CD of the Maidstone festival.

The three-disc compilation features more than three hours of live music from 35 Artists, including Sunday night headliners Black Stone Cherry.

Tracks have been handpicked by the artists taking part, and the CD features Planet Rock Stage set highlights from Thunder, Thin Lizzy, Europe and The Cadillac Three.

The album also includes artists from the Prog In The Park and the Outlaw Country and Blues stages, with tracks from Family, Procol Harum, Uriah Heep, Von Herten Brothers, The Zombies, Purson, Walter Trout, Hayseed Dixie and more.

Proceeds from the release will be donated to Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy, which is dedicated to changing the lives of vulnerable and isolated people through music.



Chris Ingham, creative director of Ramblin' Man, said: "We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback we have received from our staging of the Ramblin' Man Fair festival at Mote Park.

"We had over 22,000 people on site over the weekend. There was a fantastic atmosphere with no trouble of any sort and no arrests.

"The cream of global classic rock, prog, country and blues music delivered some incredible performances.

"We had customers from all

over Europe and the UK, and we think the festival acts as a great showcase for Maidstone and Kent."

Marcus "MJ" Salisbury, head of production for Live Here Now, which recorded the performances, said: "We are incredibly privileged to be working with some of the most talented rock, prog and blues bands from across the generations."

The CD and digital download are available to order now from www.liveherenow.com.



HIT: Thin Lizzy's Ricky Warwick wowed the Ramblin' Man crowds



POPULAR: Whitesnake's David Coverdale on Saturday night



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Help the hedgehogs by adapting your habitat

Numbers of the prickly creature are declining, but there are simple things to do to help their plight

IN the last decade, hedgehog numbers have gone down by 30 per cent due to a variety of factors including habitat loss and changes in farming techniques, according to The Wildlife Trusts, which estimates there may be less than a million left in the UK.

Many worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars and millipedes - which form the hedgehog's natural diet - have been killed off by chemical treatments and intensive farming methods. Badgers also compete for the same food.

A recent wildlife survey by the RSPB found that the number of people who have never seen a hedgehog in their garden rose to 24 per cent last year. And as hedgerows and the

countryside, which forms their natural habitat, dwindles, the garden becomes even more important as a hedgehog haven.

So what can we do to save this prickly garden favourite? The Wildlife Trusts advises:

- Create hedgehog highways: They need plenty of access to search for food, nesting sites and mates. Cut a 13cm-squared hole in your fence or dig a channel under garden boundaries to allow them to wander and get your neighbours to do the same.

- Provide nesting sites: Log and leaf piles, wilderness areas and purpose-built hedgehog homes are ideal places for hedgehogs to nest and hibernate. Fallen leaves make the perfect nesting material, so don't clear all of these



SPIKE: Hedgehogs regularly visit our gardens

away in autumn. Pile them in quiet, undisturbed corners of your garden to allow hedgehogs a safe, secure area to breed and hibernate.

- Avoid slug pellets: Hedgehogs Hoover up more than 100 invertebrates such as snails, slugs and worms every night, so no need to use slug pellets.

- Cover drains and gullies: Hedgehogs have poor eyesight, but are quite curious, meaning they fall into holes and get stuck, so cover up any open drains and gullies.

- Grow a wide variety of plants: Attract plenty of natural hedgehog food by keeping your garden diverse with a wide variety of habitats. Mulching beds with garden compost will encourage earthworms, woodlice and

beetles as it begins to rot down, while wood piles encourage a rich feast of earwigs, centipedes and woodlice.

- Check bonfires: Every year, hedgehogs die under bonfire piles that have not been checked before being lit. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society advises avoiding building your bonfire until the day it is going to be lit to reduce the chances of hedgehogs hibernating in the bonfire pile.

- Set up a feeding station: Cut a clear hole in a plastic storage box and weigh down the lid with bricks to stop cats and foxes taking the food. If you are worried about attracting rats, don't put out grain-based foods on the floor.

For more information go to www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk and www.wildlifetrusts.org/hedgehogs

Bus rally in Herne Bay

A BUS company will celebrate 100 years of service at a rally in Herne Bay on Sunday.

The East Kent Road Car Company still operates under the name Stagecoach South East and buses will be specially wrapped in the original East Kent maroon and cream colours to mark its centenary.

The rally will start at 10am on Sunday, August 7, at the William Street car park.

Chatham toasts 1940s

THE 1940s is coming to Chatham this September at a festival paying homage to the heyday of the big band and blitz spirit.

Salute to the 40s will feature vintage traders and stalls, nostalgic sing-a-longs, 1940s entertainment, fashion shows, vintage car parades and Spitfire aircraft displays.

The event will take place at The Historic Dockyard on September 17 and 18. Adult tickets are available from £15.

Wine tasting session

TIME is running out to book a place on a wine tasting event at Fort Amherst.

Discovery Wine Tasting will allow people to find out about their genes and how they drive their personal preferences in food and wine.

A 45-minute tunnel tour will be included in the price.

The event will be held on August 13 and the deadline for bookings is August 10.

Cezanne recreated

ALL Saints Art Group in Birchington will hold its annual exhibition over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The group has recreated Paul Cezanne's masterwork Still Life with Apples and Oranges by combining 16 individual paintings.

More than 100 pictures will be on sale at the event, which will be held at Church House, Birchington.



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We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2016



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NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight. The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers. All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment. The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers. We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce

and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop. The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners. Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category. All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner. This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise

the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations. These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors. It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online. We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business. ■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag

Kent Life and
Kent on Sunday
Food & Drink
Awards 2016
Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to:
Food & Drink Awards 2016.
Archant Kent,
Kent House, 81 Station Road,
Ashford TN23 1PP

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available ___at www.kent-life.co.uk and at www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is Sunday, August 7, 2016

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Chef of the Year Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries Who? Where? Why?	Customer Service of the Year Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury Who? Where? Why?	Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year Who? Where? Why?

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

CAFE OF THE YEAR



This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee!

Tea and coffee shops are an integral

part of the Kent food and drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic

customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable

dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Most of our awards recognise customer

service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has shown that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.



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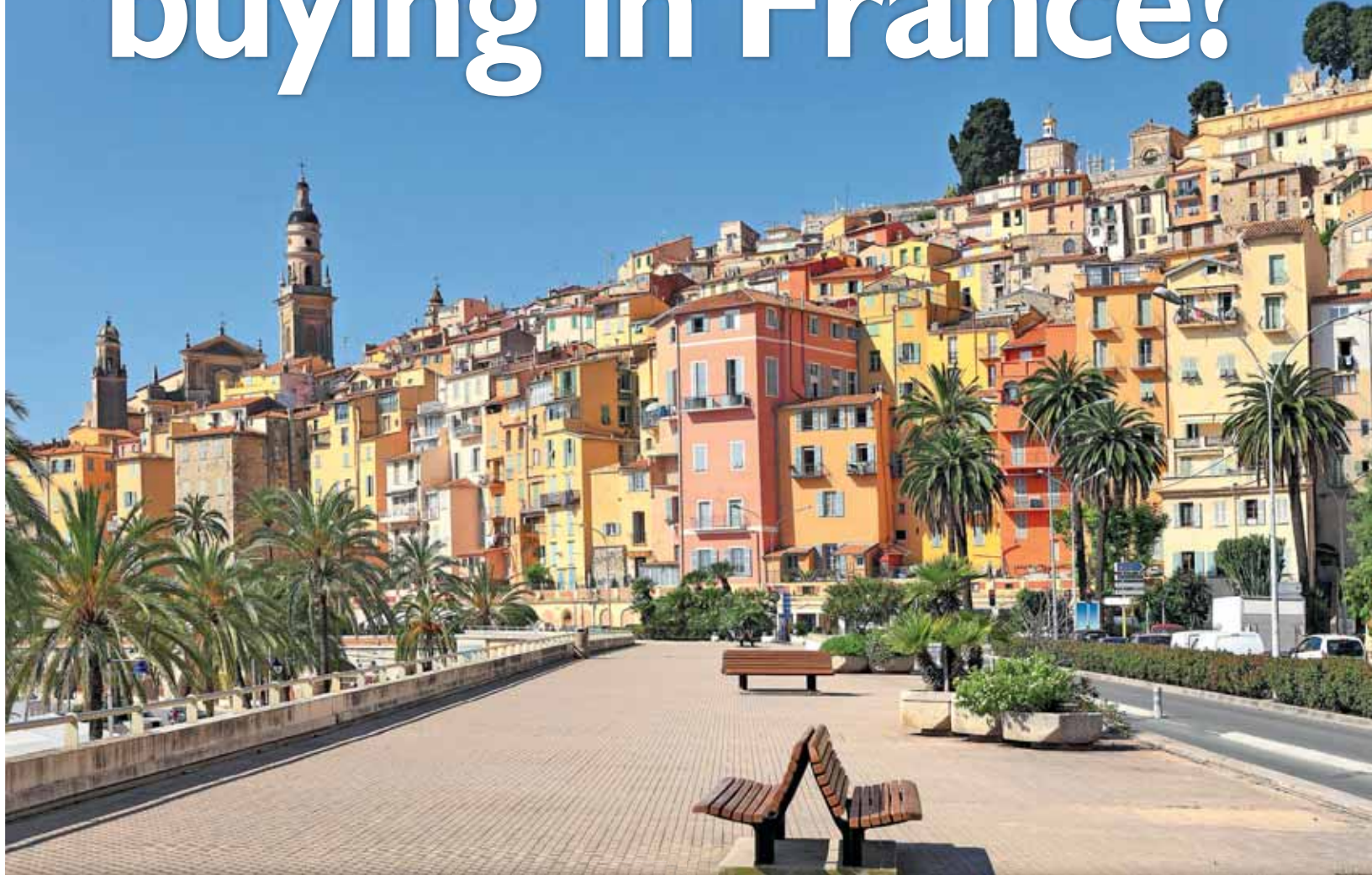
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Summer's Here

10 of the best places to visit for a family fun day out

Emily King takes a look at 10 of Kent's finest attraction - in no particular order - that guarantee a great day out

1 Dungeness National Nature Reserve

Dungeness has a far-flung spectrum of attractions that could make a visit to this desolate landscape a great summer outing.

Philosopher Robert Firth has been quoted on the reserve's website as saying "Dungeness, a strange land of extremes, one of the most valuable yet vulnerable nature conservation sites in Great Britain." The reserve is known as one of the largest shingle landscapes in the world and inhabits uncommon plants, insects and spiders in addition to migratory birds.

Dungeness has been designated as a National Nature Reserve, a Special Protection Area, and a Special Area of Conservation.

When visiting Dungeness local attractions are the RSPB reserve and visitor centre where you can walk along the nature trail, the Bird Observatory which has been categorised into six sections so you can record where you saw certain birds, the Lifeboat Station that regularly holds events throughout the year, and the Old Lighthouse which is available to the public to climb for a panoramic view of the surrounding areas.

There are two pubs in the area, The Pilot Pub, and The Britannia Pub, both of which specialise in serving fish dishes on their food menus - being on the coast, this should be expected and relished.



Kent & East Sussex Railway

The K&ES Railway is made up of five stations - Tenterden Town Station, Rolvenden Station, Wittersham Road Station, Northiam Station, and Bodiam Station, and offering a tootingly marvellous summer day.

An adult return journey along the railway line costs £15.30 and for a child's return is £10.35. Opening times and train services differ so it's best to check the website before arriving.

As you take a journey down the line you'll start at Tenterden Town Station. It is the head station on the railway and homes its principle buildings including carriage and wagon workshop. There is a variety of facilities at the railway's headquarters such as a shop, refreshment rooms, a playground and the railway's museum.

The next stop on the line is Rolvenden Station which was the original Tenterden Station and was the headquarters for all the locomotive works which remain on site. The original buildings in this site are long gone but for car lovers they should find the C M Booth collection in the town centre of significant interest.

Wittersham Station offers the opportunity to keep an eye out for a wild boar or two as its marshy surroundings, collectively known as Rother Levels, are where they are farmed.

Northiam Station is next up and for 10 years was the last stop on the line. It now has extensive parking facilities and a buffet, so visitors can chew-chew a lunch on their stop.

The last station on the railway tour is Bodiam Station which has been restored to all its former glory and is presented in a Victorian light. Today this station also houses a seasonal giftshop and a food outlet. Other attractions in this area include the medieval castle at Bodiam and a medieval house on the outskirts of the village called Great Dixter.

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3 Dreamland, Margate

If you have a wicked sweet-tooth and love an adrenaline rush, then Dreamland will suit you to a tee.

Having reopened in June 2015 after 12 years derelict and following an £18m restoration, the historic theme park is currently open everyday from 11am to 6pm until the end of September. Furthermore where formerly you had to pay entry to the park, visitors can now show up on a 'free to enter, pay to ride' basis.

There are rides suitable for everyone and anyone, whether it's the cyclone twist for the thrillseekers, the kiss me quick for those romantics on a day-date, or the swing boats for the youngsters. Dreamland offers the opportunity for a fun, family-friendly day out. Additionally, you needn't venture out of Dreamland for your lunch, dinner or dessert, as it homes a whole host of restaurants, takeaway outlets, and shops that are sure to tickle your tastebuds. The Roller Diner, and Chip 'n' Fin offer savory foods for the few who choose savory over sweet, but also perhaps for those of us who may need to line our tummies following some stomach-churning rides. On the other hand, for chocolate and sugar enthusiasts, Dreamland has ice cream, doughnuts, and sweet treats galore available from Huckleberry's, Morelli's, and the Dreamland Sweet Shop.

And of course, for the parents who will be up at the crack of dawn so their little ones gain a full day's experience, there's the Coffee Tea'ere for maybe an espresso shot, or two.



4 Turner Contemporary, Margate

Recommended for art lovers, Turner admirers, and anyone inbetween, is the Turner Contemporary.

Admission to the gallery is free, and the attraction is open Tuesday through to Sunday every week.

The gallery was created to recognise Turner's association with Margate by the former chairman of the Margate Civic Society, John Corfts, alongside other community members and funding extensively by Kent County Council. Since opening in 2011, the Turner Contemporary has brought over 1.5m visitors, and £32m to Margate's economy, and it's easy to see why when it's situated on Margate's picturesque seafront, which is the very site where Turner stayed when he visited the town.

With it being 2016, the Turner Contemporary is half way though it's NOW exhibition programme, which runs from 2014-2018. The NOW programme is of World War One Centenary Art commissions, and from now until October 30 will be transformed by two works by contemporary artist Yinka Shonibare MBE. Accompanying the aforementioned exhibitions are two more, Seeing Round Corners, and Platform 2016, which are taking place until September 25. Owing to these, the contemporary art partisans among us should be in their element this summer.

Accompanying the gallery is a cafe, meaning devotees won't have to leave the premises to eat, and therefore allowing them to make a day of it. The perfect indoor activity for Kent's rainy summer days.

It's 2016, Lets Fly!!

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5 Leeds Castle, Maidstone

Self-deemed "the loveliest castle in the world", Leeds Castle is an attraction suitable for everyone, but especially for the historians in our midst. Entry tickets to the castle's grounds, which are open all year round, are £24.50 for adults, and £16.50 for children aged between 4 and 15. Children under 4 go free.

Founded in the 9th century, Leeds Castle has been home to six of England's medieval queens, and was once a palace for Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. After the most recent castle owner, Lady Baillie, died in 1974 she left the property and the 500 acres of garden to the nation under the trusteeship of the Leeds Castle Foundation.

Visitors can take a tour of the castle and read up on its history, or alternatively you can take advantage of the activities that take place in the castle's grounds, including, flying falcon displays, navigating your way through the maze, or even swinging some clubs on the castle's golf course.

As well as the castle to satisfy your thirst for historical knowledge, there is The Gatehouse Exhibition, and The Dog Collar Museum too. The Gatehouse Exhibition promises to take visitors on a journey of the castle's 900-year history, moreover the attraction's website claims that The Dog Collar Museum displays a "fascinating collection of canine neckwear, spanning five centuries". If it's your first time visiting Leeds Castle, at the very least you'll walk away saying you've had a truly unique experience.

Getting around the historic site takes on the various themes of the castle's past residents. Transport available for visitors include, punting on the ground's moat, Elsie the castle train, and the Black Swan ferry, all of which are thoroughly enjoyable, though this is most likely weather permitting.



6 Bluewater, Greenhithe

Although undeniably a shopaholic's dream, Bluewater boasts leisure, hospitality, and kids facilities also.

Shops are open from 10am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday (5pm Sunday), and bars, restaurants, and the cinema are open until late.

Albeit now homing more than 60 places to eat, and 300 stores, this was not always the case. Before opening in March 1999, the site was a chalk quarry situated among 50-metre high cliffs. The building's site is 240 acres and is surrounded by a 50 acre landscape of lakes, parkland and trees, meaning nowadays it can be an idealic picnic location.

In terms of shopping, Bluewater has literally every shopping genre covered. Whether that's kids clothes, men's shoes, kitchenware, doggy accessories, or your weekly foodshop, Bluewater has it all. It is camp to big names such as House of Fraser, Marks & Spencer, Accessorise, and the Apple Store.

And it's a similar story for food outlets. Going to Bluewater to eat is foolproof. No matter what food takes your fancy on any given day, you will find it there. If you fancy an Italian, there is a newly opened Bella Italia. Mexican anyone? There's a Wahaca. Or for the seafood lover, first choice could be Loch Fyne.

After a shopping spree, you could take advantage of Bluewater's 13-screen Showcase cinema, which on Saturdays is open until 3am.

Quite unusually for a shopping centre, and steering away from the shopping altogether, is Bluewater's nature trail. The nature trail consists of swan lake, Bluewater beach, mosaic tunnel, a play area, and believe it or not, a range of wildlife. Potentially Bluewater could be the free summer activity kids love.



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7 Bewl Water, Lamberhurst

Waterbabies should definitely take note of this Kent spot.

Bewl Water claims to be the largest stretch of open water in the south east, and is open all year round. It's free to enter, and the price of car parking has been reduced down from £8 to £2 for the day.

This 800 acre landscape provides healthy outdoor fun for all ages and abilities. Recreational activities include fishing, cycling, boating, and nature walks which, if you have the time, includes a 12 and a half mile scenic route.

To take a trip out into the lake on either a pedal boat, or in a rowing boat costs £15 per hour, or £35 for three hours, or alternatively you could cycle along the nature trails with adult bike hire prices ranging from £7 for an hour to £22 for the day, and children's bike hire costing £5 for an hour and £15 for the day.

Naturally there are places to eat onsite, counting the Waterfront Restaurant and Cafe, and The Boat House Bistro. Available at The Boat House Bistro from 3pm everyday is a basic afternoon tea for £12.50, or a prosecco afternoon tea for £18.50 - this could be a superb way to end an action-packed day.



8 Penshurst Place, Tonbridge

This is another attraction for history buffs, whether they are young or old. Penshurst Place will undoubtedly have something to give everyone.

Adults can gain admission to the house, gardens and grounds for £10.80, and children can enter for £6.50.

The house today has a 'see, play, eat, learn' initiative for visitors, and being such a historic house there is an inundation of history to learn. In the 16th century the house was owned by Henry VIII who inherited it from his father, and then used it as a hunting lodge before giving it to Anne of Cleves in their divorce settlement.

Nowadays you can tour the house and the gardens, while children can tackle the adventure playground, look for wildlife in the woodland trail, or manoeuvre their way through the maize maze.

Why not see the scenes from a bike as well? There's a cycle route that runs from Tonbridge to Penshurst Place which has been placed in the top 10 scenic cycle routes by VisitEngland. There are cycle racks outside the visitor entrance to Penshurst Place for those who wish to arrive by bike and then hop off to have a dander and a nosey around the grounds before continuing their journey. There are two walking trails across the estate - the parkland, and the riverside walks, which take in all of the scenery. Walking maps are also available at the visitor entrance.

Perhaps afterwards you could enjoy some carrot cake at the Porcupine Pantry or a Penshurst Place cream tea at the Garden Restaurant.

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9 Port Lympne (Hythe), and Howletts (Canterbury)

If being surrounded by any and every animal imaginable sounds like your idea of heaven then both Port Lympne, and Howletts are right up your street.

Port Lympne calls itself an African and Asian animal safari experience spanning across 100 acres of landscape. The park is open from 9.30am - 6.30pm everyday in the summer months, and if you buy your tickets online you receive a 10% discount - on-the-door single ticket admission is £25 for an adult and £21 for a child.

Animals currently included in the safari experience includes zebras, tigers, lions, giraffes, and meerkats.

There's an opportunity for adults to relax at the Port Lympne Hotel restaurant as well, while children can continue their fun at the basecamp playarea.

Howletts has over 400 animals at the moment counting baby rhinos, snow leopards, gorillas, elephants, and giant anteaters. And on the unlikely basis that the animals are not enough to keep your kids entertained other activities to try your hand at on the park are archery, fishing, and zorbing.

Strolling around Howletts you'll find an array of kiosks and also a farm shop accompanied by plenty of benches, or if you'd like hot food you could try the Pavilion Restaurant in the centre of the park.



10 Historic Dockyard, Chatham

For a unique, educational but fun, family day out this "place like no other" offers a sea of ships to explore and learn about.

One big plus to this summer attraction is that once you buy a ticket it is valid for the next 12 months, and one adult ticket equals one free child admission. It is open 7 days a week.

The dockyard is 400 years old and features 47 ancient monuments and listed buildings, as well as a vast range of ships, from sailing ships to nuclear submarines.

The lifeboat collection available for viewing shows how lifeboats have changed over the last century in their look, agility and speed, and the when experiencing the warships visitors can walk the decks, sense the vision of those who would have boarded such ships in the past, and get a feel for the hard work and grit that went into maintaining the ships.

You could also view the only one of the four Royal Navy Ropeyards to stay in operation to this day. Rope has been made at Chatham Dockyard for nearly 400 years and this visit could divulge how long a piece of string really is.

Although maybe not the first attraction you'd think to visit unless you have a keen interest in ships, this activity is engaging and truly individual.






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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Brexit to see Manston US sale?

I AM confused. We voted Brexit for the UK to "take back control".

If the government forces the British owners of Manston Airport to sell to the US corporation RiverOak, is that not giving away the very control we seek?

If the situation were reversed, do you think the US government would force an American company to sell nationally significant infrastructure to a British firm?

The foreign take overs of Cadbury's and Pilkington Glass, with the subsequent UK plant closures and job losses, should make us very cautious about foreign companies' and their investment promises.

P Hendy
 Herne Bay

No surrender to the Brexiteers

I'M afraid it's Messrs Granger and Brockman (KoS, letters, last week) who will be sorely disappointed if they think the Remain campaign will simply stop; or that such as trade deals will save us after any departure from the EU; if that's what we do in the end since Article 50 hasn't been invoked as yet.

Further, the referendum was not legally binding, merely an advisory one and still far too close to merely abandon campaigning.

Mr Farage, for one, said if they lost, they would continue; and Mrs May could just as easily eventually ignore it as well.

Thus the campaigns to stop Brexit, or rejoin after it, by the 48 per cent will continue by the centralist European Movement, the Another Europe is Possible group and the EU wide Democracy in Europe Movement 2025 for example.

After all, does anyone, be it campaigners or politicians just 'give up' after a vote or decision goes against them? No, they persist.

The corporations also largely have not; they've continued to sneak around the back lobbying MEPs and commissioners alike to stitch things up for themselves.

Indeed, does Mr Brockman really want such as the anti-democratic and truly dictatorial, in my view, TTIP, CETA or TISA style 'trade deals' which would put taxpayers in the firing line for billions to maintain social or environmental protections or improvements; to be imposed on Britons, or indeed anyone else?

Thus the people have to make common cause across the EU so that it can still, albeit gradually; be reformed by voting in MEPs with a

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Bus stop dangers at Detling showground

YOU have recently reported on the Kent County Show at Detling. However, there is a problem with safety regarding the bus stop serving this site for the various event that take place at the showground during the year.

At the South East Bus Festival, held at the Detling site at around Easter time (it was on April 2 this year), a shuttle bus is provided from the site's outer car park area, and this goes northward to the Stockbury roundabout and serves one of the conventional bus stops on the way back (in order to connect into and out of normal service 333/334 buses towards Maidstone), before continuing down Detling Hill and then back up to the showground.

I assume similar arrangements apply at other events at Detling.

This, however, leaves a problem with arrangements for the bus stop for journeys from Maidstone towards Sittingbourne.

The bus stop is located a little way

past the site entrance and no pavement is provided, so the result is that bus passengers have to climb over a crash barrier and walk in the carriageway; this is hardly satisfactory on such a fast road.

I understand from Arriva its depot manager at Maidstone agrees this stop is dangerous but Kent County Council will not admit there is a problem, saying that it must wait for a serious accident to happen before anything can be done. That, frankly, shows an appalling attitude.

I would argue this bus stop should be resited so that, on non-event days, the bus would stop immediately to the Maidstone side of the site entrance, while on event days the bus would enter the site's outer car park and serve a temporary stop adjacent to the stop served by the shuttle bus that connects with southbound 333/334 journeys.

John Humphrey
 Sevenoaks

side, and who will outlive such as Mr Granger, I can paraphrase Churchill by saying: 'We Remainers will never surrender'.

Ray Duff,
 Folkestone

We will be great once again

AMID all the post-Brexit hysteria, it is worth remembering that Great Britain did exist independently before its introduction to the

Common Market in 1975, and very efficiently and successfully too.

The EU has failed its member countries cataclysmically because of the capital greed and bellicosity of its arrogant, elitist control structure.

Free movement of people is an admirable ideal but because so many EU member states are bombing the life out of impoverished African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries and robbing them of their natural resources for Western materialist gain, then the EU is inviting the interminable terrorist invasion we are now so tragically experiencing.

The European Parliament is ruled and controlled by a power-crazed corrupt minority and it is innocent citizens of all nationalities who pay the heaviest price for their rapacious avarice and shameless military plunder.

We need to get back control of our borders, unite as a nation and heal our wounds before we are completely consumed by terrorism, bitter internal division and continuous civil unrest.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
 Petham

We must fight against exports

LIVE animal exports are back in the news again.

My initial feelings of dismay and anger quickly changes, as compassion took control.

We are fighting evil which cannot be allowed to prevail.

Mary McNulty,
 Brenchley

Oops...apologies for the error

IN your paper last week by a story headlined 'Prison starting to stabilise' you have printed the wrong picture of the prison.

This is not HMP Swaleside, it is HMP Eastchurch (Standford Hill)

S Baran
 via email

Options for guilt free electricity

AS a transport economist I was interested in your article entitled go eco-economical and ecological.

If your readers are really interested in climate change, as I would hope, then it is possible to buy electricity from at least two producers Good Energy and Ecotricity who only use electricity from sustainable sources.

David Spurling,
 Sittingbourne

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

East

people living in the county.

- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.
 kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk



Epple Bay, near Birchington
by **Hugo Thomson,**
from Margate

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Summer by the sea

with

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The Captain Digby is an award winning family restaurant in Thanet and one of the most popular places to visit all year round. The Digby caters for couples and families alike with fantastic views overlooking Kingsgate Bay for the adults and an indoor play area for the children. It's well worth a visit, a warm welcome awaits.

The Captain Digby, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, CT10 3QH
www.captaindigby.co.uk | 01843 867 764



Tartar Frigate

The historic Tartar Frigate is one of the only 18th century flint restaurants in Kent. Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs. If seafood isn't for you then you can take advantage of the extensive menu, which also includes mouth watering traditional dishes from around the world.

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The Charles Dickens

Welcome to The Charles Dickens Pub. One of the largest pubs in Broadstairs, with the main bar downstairs serving great pub food, fine wine and ales and the Copperfields restaurant and bar upstairs commanding excellent views of Viking Bay. The chef's menus contain classic British ingredients, many of which are locally sourced and cooked with a modern twist.

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2 nights
half board
£129^{pp}

60s Sounds in Surrey

Thatcher's Hotel, Guildford

Friday 4 November, 2016 - Quote: TG-KOS

ENJOY a fun-packed party break at this charming Tudor-style hotel near Guildford and close to The Hogs Back Brewery and Polesden Lacey, an Edwardian country house and estate. Entertainment is by Dave Grant (ex-Paper Lace) and Vicki Lambert as Dusty Springfield. Over-40s only.

Break also available 6 Jan 2017 with Fortunes lead singer Eddie Mooney & Glen Leon as Tom Jones – £129pp; 10 Feb 2017 with The Beatle (Fab Four tribute) & comedy singer Ian Larkin – £139pp; 10 Mar 2017 with Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) and Dave Grant (ex-Paper Lace) – £139pp; 14 Apr 2017 (Easter) with the Frankie Valli Story & singing duo Bus Stop – £159pp.

INCLUDED: Entertainment both nights • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • Free Parking



£10 deposit
Free Drinks
Entertainment
Dance tuition
Dance cabaret
Over 40s only
Car Ferry

3 nights
half board
PLUS from
£279^{pp}

Carry on New Year Dance Party

Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

6 January, 2017 • Quote: NY1-3-KOS

Fans of Strictly Come Dancing and dance enthusiasts are in for a treat at our exclusive break on the Isle of Wight. We are taking over Warner's Bembridge Coast Hotel again with a tailor made weekend hosted by IDU World Ballroom Dance Champions Warren and Kristi Boyce, featuring Ballroom and Latin dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more. With a huge 8,860 sq ft dance floor, reserved tables and seating for a maximum of 200 dance guests, comfort and space are guaranteed. Dance guests can also enjoy a packed entertainment programme in the show lounge with tributes to The Beatles, The Stylistics and Tom Jones, PLUS great food and free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers and spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers • 3 nights sharing an en-suite chalet with TV and tea/coffee tray - main hotel upgrades available • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Dance tuition • Dance cabaret • Social dancing • Gala Ball • 60s-themed entertainment in the show lounge • Return car ferry • Free car parking



Free Drinks
Private Charter
Entertainment
Over 40s only

4 days
full board-plus
from
£449^{pp}

Maastricht & Valkenburg

Super 60s Christmas Markets River Cruise By Rail or Air

28 November, 2016 • Quote: TC11-4-KOS



Join us for a super cruise down memory lane as we party to the songs of Dusty Springfield and a host of other 60s icons with star tribute act Vicki Lambert. We also take-in Holland's best Christmas market towns: Maastricht and Valkenburg with its unique Christmas caves. Add to this great food and free drinks on board our exclusive charter of the popular mps Princess and you have the perfect start to the festive season.

INCLUDED: Escorted return Eurostar travel from London St Pancras and Ebbsfleet, or flights from a choice of UK airports • 3 nights full-board plus on the mps Princess sharing a Main Deck rear twin-bed cabin - upgrades available • Beer, wine & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Buffet breakfasts & lunches • Dinner served at your table - 4 courses • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on Board



Worthing Pier

£1 Drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

2 nights
half board
£129^{pp}

Seaside 60s Sounds in West Sussex

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing

24 March, 2017 • Quote: WG3-KOS



Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment from Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) plus Vicki Lambert as Dusty Springfield. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: Happy Hour £1 drinks from 7pm to 11pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • Live entertainment both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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REFRESH: Korea's fourth largest carmaker is back in the UK to stay this time, expanding its range and market share. Pictured: the Tivoli XLV, left, Korando, below right, Rexton tackling the mud, bottom, and the Turismo, below left.

SsangYong shows off double dragon ambition

SSANGYONG is flexing its muscles in the wake of Hyundai and Kia's success here.

Using the same well-warranted, high value stance of those better known brands, but tending towards the fashionable SUV/crossover style, South Korea's fourth largest car maker has expanded both range and sales.

The latest addition is a well-judged stretched XLV version of the Tivoli entry model launched last year and priced from £12,950. The XLV adds 238mm to the standard car's length, thereby delivering 720 cubic litres of space – bettering top family estates like the VW Passat (650 litres).

SsangYong says the XLV (from £18,250) is “a multi-role, multi-function solution” equally adept at lugging baby buggies and kids' stuff, bikes and golf clubs for the sporty, or all the kit for a working week.

As with all SsangYongs it also comes with a five-year/unlimited mileage warranty, rather than the industry norm – a miserly three year/60,000-mile ticket.

SsangYong – which means ‘double dragons’ – made its UK debut in the 1990s with the Mercedes-Benz-powered Musso, but was dogged by corporate instability until the 2011 takeover by India's Mahindra group and a UK return.

The range flagship is the Rexton, a thorough



revamp of the previous car, which sold on its 4x4 towing prowess at a sensible price. The revised ‘W’ (£22,995) has the same strengths but a more pleasing appearance inside and out.

The mid-range Korando SUV (from £15,995) has the cachet of design by Italian master Giorgetto Giugiaro's studio. Launched in 2011 and recent-

ly updated, this car allowed SsangYong to start breaking through in the UK, a process accelerated by the smaller and even more affordable Tivoli last year. Finally, the Turismo is SsangYong's space monster, a seven-seater with decent luggage space that makes it pretty much unbeatable as a people carrier – especially from £18,995.

Citroën's Picasso continues to shape up

French marque's C3 Picasso model continues to be a fresh and versatile design, appealing to a wide range of customers. We look at the model inspired by art

PEOPLE carriers or MPVs are typically 'one-box' designs, so Citroën pulled a master stroke by adopting the name of Cubism creator Picasso.

The French marque's MPV sub-brand has since gone its own distinctive way with 'cubist' designs such as the C3 Picasso.

When this car arrived in 2011 it not only impressed with its space, but a nod to SUV ruggedness, keeping it fresh in a market where 4x4 styling cues are all the rage.

And yet the upright structuring that bodes well for passenger space and load-carrying, is nicely blurred and 'blings up' well in dark colours with alloys, roof bars and add-ons.

Interior quality and appeal matches the exterior and, despite a tall stance, it is not a bad drive either, though the pliant suspension and light steering is geared more to a relaxed and road-smoothing ride.

But does it deliver as an MPV? Definitely, and at an aggressive price from £16,575, with loads of standard kit after a recent streamlining of the line-up.

All passengers get generous head and legroom and the airy cabin can be enhanced by a full length



panoramic roof if you opt for flagship Platinum trim (from £17,575).

Of course, it shines most as a load carrier, enhanced by the front passenger seat back folding for extra load space within what is one of the longest cabins in its class, rivalling

many MPVs in the segment above.

It has a generous 500-litre boot, expandable to a van-like 1,506 litres adding to a broad appeal; ranging from family wagon to 'funky wheels' for young buyers; tradesman's weekday workhorse/weekend family

bus to executive holdall; or lifestyle estate with a difference to 'smart yet sensible wheels' for empty nesters.

It is one of the biggest boots in its sector and has a removable floor, which can be positioned at two levels to give either a flat load floor with

Citroën C3 Picasso Platinum PureTech 110

Price:	from £17,225
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford C-Max

rear seats folded or a much deeper boot when they are upright.

And much attention has been paid to detail for carrying the passengers' bits and bobs.

Dislikes? Well, the car's handling might be too comfort orientated for some, and the centre mounting of the key dials and gauges is a bit old hat and penny-pinching.

Countering these niggles though are excellent powertrain options: the light, lively and willing three-cylinder 110bhp 1.2-litre petrol engine – as tested here – or the smooth four-cylinder 90bhp diesel (from £17,640).

The frugality of the diesel – 72.4mpg official combined – and £20 a year road tax is countered by the petrol's livelier performance, 56.5mpg (combined), £30 road tax and an upfront saving of £1,065.

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HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116 STOPPING UP OF LAND AT UNDERHILL ROAD, DIBGATE CAMP, SHORNCLIFFE, FOLKESTONE

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Folkestone Magistrates' Court on 8 September 2016 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Underhill Road, Dibgate Camp, Shorncliffe, Folkestone as edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform David McKnight by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email david.mcknight@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 03000 416465 before 30 August 2016 quoting reference number LS/21/106057/608.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact David McKnight using the contact details shown above.
ROGER WILKIN

DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS,
TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE

LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for Grant of New Premises Licence

We McGuire's Fine Food Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for grant of a new premises license the provision of licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol from 09.00 – 23.30 daily

Provision of Regulated Entertainment – 18.00 – 24.00 daily

Provision of Late Night Refreshment – 23.00 -24.00 daily

In respect of the premises situated at Pump House No 5, Leviathan Way, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent ME4 4LP to be known by the sign of **McGuire's at the Distillery**. A Copy of the application can be inspected at the Licensing Department, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during office hours or on our website at www.medway.gov.uk/licensing.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Unit at the Council Offices or by e-mail to licensing@medway.gov.uk by 26th August 2016 or by telephone 01634 337107 after which date no objections will be considered.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. Representations must relate to one or more of the four licensing objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE, and OR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

D. J. Mortimer Ltd of 6 Falcon Mews, Vale Road, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 8BW is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer at Robins Wharf, Grove Road, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 9AX

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Notice of an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act)

Notice is hereby given that Graham Peter Austen has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the Grant of Premises Licence for a recorded music on and off alcohol and hours and days. For the premises Bookmakers Arms, situated at 18 High Street Charing Kent TN27 0HU. A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving details of the grounds of objection by 22nd August 2016. Dated this 7th Day of August 2016

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Gemili named GB captain in Brazil

Dartford sprinter told us last week he wants a medal in Rio

Athletics

By Luke May

luke.may@archant.co.uk

DARTFORD'S Olympic sprinter Adam Gemili has been announced as the team captain for Team GB's athletics squad.

The former Blackheath and Bromley Harriers runner will line up in Rio in the men's 200m as well as the men's 4x100m relay later this month.

At 18, Gemili, made it to the men's 100m semi final at London 2012.

The former Dartford Grammar school student accepted the honour, ahead of the Olympic ceremony on Friday night.

The 22-year-old told KoS last week that he was not going out there to make up the numbers, but to challenge the likes of Jamaica's Usain Bolt for a medal and a place on the podium.

This week, following the announcement, he said: "It was a real honour to be asked and I wasn't sure at first whether to accept because I knew there were others in the team who had more experience."

"But I am so proud to be here, I love my sport and what I've experienced in the last few years and I'll always do my best to perform well and support my team mates in whatever they do too."

"If a captain is measured by any of these things then I know I can give it a real go."

"I am so grateful that I've been on teams with so many great athletes and staff and how they've helped me to learn what I do over the last few years. I'll be thinking of what they've



SKIPPER: Adam Gemili

done for me and use this as a way of saying thank you."

Neil Black is the team leader for the athletics squad.

He said: "It's rare that an athlete should have such widespread respect at such a young age, but his conduct, performance credentials and ability

to unite people is one of the best I've ever seen in all my time working in athletics."

"He is a world class athlete, professional, respectful and a great ambassador for the sport. The captaincy for an Olympic Games is an honour and it's one that Adam truly deserves."

Shakey bounces back from crash at Brands

Superbikes

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne bounced back from a high-speed crash to top the times in the opening British Superbike Championship free practice session at his home round of Brands Hatch on Friday.

The Sheppey rider was climbing the order before a tumble at Sheene Curve early in the session, which acts as preparation for the main races across the weekend.

The four-time champion was able to return to the garage and with hard work from the team, he was able to get back on track for the final ten minutes of the session.

His rookie team-mate Glenn Irwin had snatched the top position from the Bennetts Suzuki team in the final



LEADER: Shane Byrne

20 minutes after Tommy Bridewell posted a time that would be the benchmark into the closing stages of

the session.

Irwin hit the top with just under 15 minutes of the session remaining, but in the final minutes he was pushed back to third when Honda Racing's Dan Linfoot split the Be Wiser Ducatis at the chequered flag.

Luke Mossey climbed the order to fourth in the final moments, moving up ahead of Richard Cooper on the leading Buildbase BMW and Bridewell, who held sixth place at the end of the session.

Lee Jackson made it both Buildbase BMWs inside the top ten in seventh place as he held off Jason O'Halloran and Christian Iddon on the leading Tyco BMW.

James Ellison completed the top ten in the practice, with Leon Haslam holding 12th place and Peter Hickman in 14th.

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Spinner Tredwell given benefit year for county

FORMER England spinner James Tredwell has been granted a benefit year at Kent for 2017.

The Ashford-born bowler made his debut for the county in 2000 and has made more than 500 senior appearances and taken in excess of 800 wickets during a decade and a half.

The 34-year-old was awarded his Kent cap and won the Twenty20 Cup in 2007 before being part of the side that won County Championship Division Two in 2009.

Tredwell has represented England in all three forms of the game: his Test and ODI debut came on the Bangladesh tour of 2010 before his most recent call-up in 2015 for the tour of West Indies.

He said: "I feel very grateful to have been able to represent both my county and my country and to have been recognised in this way is a fantastic honour."

"I have had some fabulous times on the cricket field to date and look forward to another fantastic year with you all."



SERVANT: James Tredwell



HOME: Gillingham's Priestfield

Ex-Arsenal prospect joins Gills in loan deal

GILLINGHAM have snapped up a former Arsenal academy product on loan, just hours before the new League One season kicks off.

Jay Emmanuel-Thomas, who can play as a winger or a striker, joins from Championship club QPR after spells with a number of clubs in the Football League.

"I'm here to help the club get as high as possible in the league,"

he said.

"I want to score goals, excite the fans, and show people what I'm good at."

"I had a great conversation with the manager; we spoke in great detail about what he wants to do at the club."

"That was exciting to hear, and it's even more exciting to be a part of that."

Ebbfleet promote academy pair

EBBSFLEET United have promoted two young talents from its academy.

Ollie Boulding and Karn Miller-Neave have both signed one-year deals with the club after featuring in pre-season and training alongside the first-team.

Left back Miller-Neave burst on to the scene when he scored a stunning free-kick against Hythe Town in October 2014, making him the

fourth youngest goalscorer ever in the FA Cup.

He has since played in Kent Senior Cup games and made his Fleet league debut in April 2015 against Bishop's Stortford.

Boulding also cut his teeth in the Senior Cup last season and impressed in the right-back berth, making his league debut against Eastbourne on the last day of the campaign.

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